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COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

## Mosque seeking to build relations

Canton Muslim community welcoming visitors with coffee hour

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Moving to promote tolerance amid an increase in anti-Muslim violence and rhetoric, the Canton Mosque has announced its latest effort to build positive relations among the diverse segments of the Canton-area population.

The mosque has a history of supporting inclusion by welcoming visitors to Ramadan dinners, political candidate forums, open houses and interfaith events.

Next up, the mosque, located at Palmer and Lotz roads, hopes to promote an informal discussion over a cup of coffee during a gathering set for 4-6 p.m. Saturday, March 28. It is intended to help visitors, especially those going to the mosque for the first time, feel comfortable asking questions and sharing their thoughts.

"It is an opportunity to initiate the process of getting to know one another better, focusing on common goals and aspirations while learning from our diverse experiences and cultures," said Hasina Abdu, who chairs the outreach

See MOSQUE, Page A2

## Canton police reviving popular citizens academy

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

A police car whizzes by, sirens wailing, as officers rush to a crime scene.

A patrol car parks near Canton's worst intersection, Ford and Haggerty, to watch for – and ticket – dangerous drivers.

Police scour a neighborhood to find a missing child or a dementia patient who has wandered off.

Ever wondered what decisions and policies guide police work?

Here's your chance. The Canton Police Department has decided to start a new Citizens Police Academy, reviving a program from the 1980s that proved successful.

It's intended for people who live or work in Canton and are interested in gaining insight and knowledge on how the local men and women in blue serve the community.

Academy members will be educated on the policies and operational procedures of the department through hands-on activities, demonstrations and presentations – all intended to help increase awareness of the training and education it takes for police officers to handle the challenges of their job.

"Academy participants will gain insight into the difficult challenges law enforcement personnel face on a daily basis through interesting and informa-

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Mark Grima sits behind the wheel of his 1969 Dodge Charger.

THE GRIMA BROTHERS

## Canton brothers rev up for Autorama

Mark and Tom Grima are both in this year's hot-rod show

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

They both claim to have the best car, these Canton brothers.

Mark Grima, 20, has a neon blue 1969 Dodge Charger.

"I definitely baby it," he said. Tom Grima, 22, has a darker blue 1979 Chevrolet Camaro Z28.

"It's got a mean look to it," he said. "It's got a little bit of muscle for its era."

Nothing wrong with a little sibling rivalry.

"We jab at each other over which car is better," Mark Grima said.

Truth is, they both have classy rides – classy enough that they made the cut for this year's 63rd annual Meguiar's Detroit Autorama, which revs up March 6-8 inside Cobo Center. It features 1,000 world-class hot rods and custom cars and five fiery autos from the *Fast and Furious* movie series, among numerous other attractions.

Tom Grima marks his third time showing his sporty Camaro at the largest and oldest car show of its kind in North America.

"A lot of people liked the car and wanted me back," he said.

Mark Grima's car has been a bit more temperamental, twice keeping him out of the show because of a blown engine and transmission problems. His third try should prove the charm as he joins his older brother for the turbo-charged Autorama.



Tom Grima kneels by his classy 1979 Chevrolet Camaro Z28, an Autorama regular.

THE GRIMA BROTHERS

"This year, we really wanted to make sure we were in it together," he said.

The Grima brothers have both won car show awards from a Maltese American Community Club contest in Dearborn and they both attend events such as the Woodward Dream Cruise.

They grew up around cars because their father, Michael Grima, is a mechanic.

"I've been surrounded by the muscle cars since I was a kid," said Mark Grima, who owns a small landscaping service, MAG Lawn

Services. "For some reason, the '69 Charger stuck out as my favorite."

He got the car for \$18,000 in Maryland in April 2011, after he saw it online. His father had a business trip to the area and stopped to check out the car, which passed the test.

Tom Grima, a mechanic for Canton-based Bill Brown Auto Clinic, found his Camaro closer to home, for \$6,000 in Ortonville. He has had it six years.

"It's not one you see every day,"

See AUTORAMA, Page A2

## Lotz, Ford projects topic of public meeting

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer



FILE PHOTO

Projects to improve Lotz and Ford roads are the topic of a public meeting Wednesday in Canton.

Calling it "critical" to improve the Ford Road/I-275 interchange in Canton, Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price has weighed in as state and county transportation officials prepare to roll out a partial fix.

Officials are hopeful traffic will ease somewhat after road crews this construction season pave a car-rattling stretch of Lotz Road, between Ford and Cherry Hill, and make improvements along Ford.

"There is far too much traffic for what that area can handle and Lotz Road is seeing some of the spillover. These two projects will, hopefully, provide some badly needed relief in that area," Price, R-Plymouth Township, said Friday, in a prepared state-

See MEETING, Page A2



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# Plea deals reached in Plymouth Township murder

By **Matt Jachman**  
Staff Writer

A Westland man will spend at least 27 years in prison for shooting a 76-year-old Plymouth Township man to death last October.

Andrew J. Nutt, 22, pleaded guilty Thursday in Wayne County Circuit Court to one charge each of second-degree murder and using a gun during a felony in the killing of Kenneth LaBita, who was found Oct. 27 in his house on Gilbert, east of Haggerty. He had been shot in the back of the head. Nutt's accomplice,



Nutt

Miriam N. Pisarski, 20, of Wayne pleaded guilty to a charge of being an accessory after the fact and another of larceny of firearms.

A plea agreement with the county prosecutor's office calls for a prison sentence for Nutt of between 25 years and 60 years for the murder charge, plus two years



LaBita

for the gun charge, according to Maria Miller, spokeswoman for Prosecutor Kym Worthing. Pisarski's sentencing agreement was for between two and five years, Miller said.

In exchange for the guilty pleas, other charges — first-degree murder, felony murder and larceny of firearms against Nutt, plus a felony murder charge against Pisarski — were dismissed.

The two had been scheduled for a jury trial that was to start Monday.

Pisarski is scheduled to be sentenced Thursday, March 12, by Judge Mark Slavens, while Nutt is to be sentenced by Slavens the next day. Both remain in custody.

LaBita, who had grown up in the area and lived in the house on Gilbert for more than 40 years, was retired from Dunn Steel. He collected guns and was a motorcycle buff. His wife Myrtle died in 2012 and their daughter, Sherry Ann LaBita, died in 2008.

Nutt and Pisarski, who

was described at the time as Nutt's girlfriend, were arrested days after LaBita was found. The killing took place Oct. 24, a Friday. Police said cash and guns were stolen from LaBita's home; almost \$4,000 in cash was recovered from Nutt's home, but Police Chief Tom Tiderington said Friday that none of the guns have been found, though police have executed search warrants in Detroit.

Tiderington credited cooperation between several police agencies and the prosecutor's office for the relatively

quick resolution of the case.

During a November preliminary hearing in 35th District Court, both Nutt's father, Timothy S. Nutt, and older brother, Timothy J. Nutt, testified that Nutt had confessed to them that he shot LaBita.

"He went over to Kenney's and he was supposed to buy a gun or something from him and it went bad and he shot him," the father said, adding he told his son to "take it to his grave."

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## MOSQUE

Continued from Page A1

committee for the mosque, or Muslim Community of Western Suburbs.

"We focus so much on what we do not know about each other that we fail to take the opportunity to reach out and work together," she said. "There is so much potential to make a difference, if we could just reach beyond these barriers."

The mosque coffee event comes amid a backdrop of anti-Muslim violence such as the shooting deaths of three students in North Carolina. Abdu said the incidents only heighten the need to promote understanding and dispel negative stereotypes.

"There has always been a need for dialogue and collaboration," she said. "The North Carolina incident, along with other shootings, just highlight the urgency and serve as reminders."

Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, who works to promote diversity through the Plymouth-Canton Interfaith Community Outreach, com-

mended the mosque for once again reaching out to the larger community. She said she hopes non-Muslims respond.

"When you start to learn about each other, you're not afraid of each other," Graham-Hudak said. "People begin to seem more human to you. This (coffee hour) supports inclusion and conversation. The mosque has already done a lot of things to promote that."

Abdu said she is hopeful the coffee gathering, by offering an informal way for area residents to ask questions and learn, can help to promote understanding.

"The coffee hour is just one portion of a bigger picture we all should paint together," she said. "We should create more opportunities for dialogue and collaboration. Working together and creating a shared sense of value and mission is essential in building bridges and dispelling stereotypes."

Those planning to attend are asked to respond by email to mcwsoutreach@gmail.com.

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THE GRIMA BROTHERS  
This classy 1969 Dodge Charger is ready for Autorama for the first time.



THE GRIMA BROTHERS  
Sitting pretty in the sun, Tom Grima's 1979 Chevrolet Camaro Z28 is headed to Autorama for the third time.

## AUTORAMA

Continued from Page A1

he said.

He has been working on cars since he was about 9 years old, so he knows how to care for his Camaro.

"It gets driven in the summer," Tom Grima said. "It's not a garage queen or trailer queen."

Other than car shows and cruises, the brothers drive to places like a family cottage in Howell. Tom Grima said any rivalry he has with his brother is friendly.

"He's got one hell of a car that would bring more money than mine,"

Tom Grima said. "When it comes down to it, my car is a little quicker than his. But we both know we've got some pretty sweet cars."

Autorama happens noon to 10 p.m. Friday, March 6, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 7, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 8.

Peter Toundas, show manager and president of Championship Auto Shows, Inc., said attractions such as the *Fast and Furious* cars "are perfect symbols of the young excitement and appeal that is alive and well in hot rod culture today."

Autorama kicks off at 11:45 a.m. March 6 out-

*"When it comes down to it, my car is a little quicker than his. But we both know we've got some pretty sweet cars."*

TOM GRIMA

side Cobo Center with what is billed as a "live flame burn-out demonstration" of a fuel-altered dragster named Pure Hell. Autorama, which draws worldwide visitors, also includes a presentation of the Ridler Award, described as the most coveted hot-rod

award. It goes to the most outstanding new custom car shown for the first time anywhere.

Toundas called the Motor City the logical place for Autorama, saying organizers "make every effort to let everyone know about this important heritage."

Admission at the door is \$19 for adults, \$6 for children ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. Discount tickets are available at O'Reilly Auto Parts.

For more information, call 248-373-1700 or go to [www.autorama.com](http://www.autorama.com).

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## MEETING

Continued from Page A1

ment. "The residents on or near Lotz Road have been waiting a long time for it to be paved and I'm happy to see that this project will finally accomplish that goal."

His remarks came as the Wayne County Roads Division and the Michigan Department of Transportation prepare for an informal public meeting 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at Summit

on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, where visitors can view drawings and learn details of the projects.

County and state officials have said they hope to minimize construction-season traffic snarls as much as possible while paving Lotz and performing the following work on Ford:

- » Resurface three miles of Ford, from Lotz to Marlowe Street.
- » Patch concrete along Ford, from Haggerty to Lotz.
- » Patch on and off

ramps at the I-275/Ford interchange.

» Extend turn lanes and sidewalks along Ford and improve pavement markings.

» Replace signs along Ford, from west of Haggerty to Lotz.

The projects come as officials seek to ease traffic bottlenecks along Ford Road, home to some of Michigan's most accident-prone intersections.

Though the Lotz and Ford projects are separate, Wayne County and MDOT officials chose to have a joint meeting so

that area residents and businesses can get information in one place.

Canton Township engineer Bill Serchak has called it "a great opportunity" for residents and businesses to interact with state and county agencies.

MDOT has indicated that a long-term solution to Ford Road traffic woes could involve transforming Canton's busiest thoroughfare into a boulevard, though no timetable is known.

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## ACADEMY

Continued from Page A1

tive instruction," Canton Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler said.

The ultimate goal, he said, is to develop positive relations between citizens and police officers.

"We recognize the value of transparency in police work and believe in the age-old concept (that

the police are the public and the public are the police," Mutchler said.

The Canton department conducted several well-received citizens academies in the early 1980s. With a renewed emphasis on community relations, Mutchler said, "the timing was right to reinstate this educational program for a cross-section of citizens of our community."

It's a commitment of

time. The academy happens 6-9 p.m. each Thursday for six weeks from April 23 through May 28, with one Saturday morning session May 23.

Class size is limited; applicants have to be 21 or older, live or work in Canton, have no felony convictions and have no misdemeanor convictions for at least three years. They also have to submit to a background check. Applications are avail-

able online at [www.cantonpublicsafety.org](http://www.cantonpublicsafety.org) or at the Canton police station's front desk, 1150 S. Canton Center. Applications will be accepted through March 15.

Questions should be directed to Staff Operations Sgt. James Harrison at 734-394-5411.

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# CANTON OBSERVER

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# School exhibit examines race, housing in area

An exhibit telling the story of metro Detroit's housing history through a racial lens is coming to Salem High School.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, with the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion and the Beloved Community, are presenting We Don't Want Them, March 2 through April 2 at Salem High.

A walk through the exhibit reveals to the viewer personal accounts – using historic documents, photographs and personal narratives – of the formation, challenges and eventual destruction of communities that once stood within our local area.

"The purpose of the We Don't Want Them traveling exhibit is to explore the impact of racism on the development of communities in the metropolitan Detroit area," said Stacey L. Stevens, Race2Equity program manager for the Michigan Roundtable. "Plymouth-Canton students should be able to walk away with a better understanding of structural racism's impact on the development of communities throughout the metropolitan area."

"It is the Michigan Roundtable's hope that students will be interested in exploring and learning about Plymouth-Canton's history and its influence on communities today."

Those who travel through We Don't Want Them will also learn how the impact of institutions and social policies culminated in riot and rebellion, as well as the legacy of individuals, groups and communities as they worked – and continue the climb – toward equal rights and opportunities.

"The housing exhibit helps people understand the policies and prac-



The traveling display has been to places around metro Detroit.

MICHIGAN ROUNDTABLE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

tices put in place over the past 80-plus years, which led to vexing wealth disparity between black and white neighbors," said Steve Spreitzer, president and CEO of MRDI. "Our hope is that becoming aware of this history will inform those who were ignorant and help advance the work for racial justice."

Sommer Foster, Beloved Community leadership team member, said one of the goals is to educate.

"Part of our mission as the Beloved Community is to provide opportunities for education," she said. "We believe that the more people learn about often unacknowledged sources of racism and inequality, we can begin to have open and honest dialogue which will lead to reconciliation and healing."

Students at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park will experience the ex-

hibit thanks to the district's continued focus and commitment to building equity and opportunity for all of its nearly 17,000 students.

"The We Don't Want Them exhibit is the type of display that everyone should see because it tells such an important story," P-CCS Superintendent Michael Meissen said. "As P-CCS continues our passionate work regarding equity and opportunity for all of our students, it is important that we all learn from the history that the mistakes of past can teach us. We are proud that we can house important exhibits such as We Don't Want Them as a way to recognize the past to help us create better futures for our schools and every student who attends them."

For more information on the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, go to [www.mroundtable.org](http://www.mroundtable.org).



This exhibit, We Don't Want Them, is coming to Salem High School.

MICHIGAN ROUNDTABLE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

For more information on the Beloved Community, go to <http://belovedcommunitypc.wordpress.com>.

Local community

groups are invited to take free, guided tours of the exhibit the evenings of Wednesday, March 11, and Tuesday, March 31. Community

groups may schedule a time for a tour by contacting Nick Brandon at [Nicholas.Brandon@pccsk12.com](mailto:Nicholas.Brandon@pccsk12.com) or 734-416-2755.

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SADD faculty adviser Janet Sutherland said the Strive for a Safer Drive contest makes "kids aware how dangerous driving can be and that they have a responsibility to be safe drivers."



School resource officer Andrew Curry demonstrates the effects of "drunk goggles" to Plymouth-Canton students.



Posters warning of the dangers of distracted driving went up at all three high schools.

## Program warns of distracted driving dangers

By Brad Kadrich  
 Correspondent

"Look ahead" is a simple message with multiple meanings, as Plymouth-Canton Educational Park students found out this week through a contest engineered by the Park's Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter.

Competing in the annual Strive for a Safer Drive contest sponsored by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, P-CEP students got a look at what the vari-

ous impacts of distracted driving can be.

It's the fourth year P-CEP students have participated in the contest. They've finished first twice and third once in their three years.

"They want to get kids to 'look ahead' at all the dangers out there on the road," SADD faculty adviser Janet Sutherland said. "I think we make kids aware how dangerous driving can be and that they have a responsibility to be safe drivers."

Strive For A Safer Drive is a teen driving

initiative aimed at reducing serious traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities among Michigan's most inexperienced drivers - teens. It is presented by AAA Michigan, Ford Driving Skills for Life and Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning.

Competing schools are asked to put together a school-wide plan and the S4SD committee judges the plans. Schools with approved plans are awarded a \$2,000 budget. The P-CEP SADD students submitted their plan back in October.

P-CEP's plan, devised and enacted entirely by SADD members - including the making of posters and videos, along with passing out stickers to students - all warning about distracted driving.

According to statistics, the project noted, some 25 percent of teenagers text and drive, while 10 percent of people who die in car accidents were somehow distracted.

"'Look ahead' has a number of meanings to high school drivers. It has the literal meaning and it has the figurative meaning of look ahead at how an accident could change the rest of your

life," Sutherland said.

Aside from teaching the dangers of distracted driving, students involved in the project learned a variety of life skills.

They were responsible for designing the posters and stickers, they wrote, directed and filmed the videos and they conducted the tests.

One of the tests they used was catching a ruler. A student was asked to catch a falling ruler while focused solely on the ruler and then try it again while texting. The difference in reaction time was stark.

Canton Police Officer Andrew Curry, the de-

partment's school resource officer at The Park, also brought in "drunk goggles," specialized goggles designed to make kids' reactions to seemingly simple tasks more as they would be had they been drinking.

"The SADD kids learn about organizing, scheduling, making sure they have the money and following up with a report," Sutherland said.

The winning teams get to have a contingent attend professional driving lessons at the Ford Proving Grounds.

This year's program has to be submitted later this month. Winners will be announced in April.

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# Was Ficano duped into signing infamous memo?

By John Wisely  
Michigan.com

Former Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said last month that he signed a controversial letter confirming a \$200,000 severance to former development chief Turkia Awada Mullin because it was in a stack of papers awaiting his signature.

It was late the Friday afternoon before Labor Day weekend in 2011 when Ficano said he picked up the stack from a counter with a sticky note attached that read: "OK to sign."

"I signed all the documents," Ficano testified last month in a wrongful-termination lawsuit filed by Taylor Segue, a former employee fired by Mullin. "I never just sign anything, there's got to be a review by somebody that says this is OK to sign, that it's consistent with, you know, your signature, so go ahead and sign it."

One of the documents in that stack was the now-infamous, undated letter on expired county



Mullin

Ficano

stationery acknowledging that Mullin was eligible for a severance of one year's pay, which in her case, was \$200,000.

Ficano testified that stacks of documents were typically left there for him by his then-deputy, Azzam Elder, or then-chief of staff, Matthew Schenk. He said he couldn't recall who wrote the sticky note.

Word of Mullin's severance touched off a scandal credited with ending Ficano's 30-year political career and prompting a federal corruption probe that netted five convictions.

Earlier this month, U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade ended the investigation and announced that Ficano, Elder and Mullin would face no criminal charges. But Segue's lawsuit

shows that the Ficano administration's legal problems are still costing Wayne County.

The controversial letter was written on stationary listing the county address as 600 Randolph, a building the county left two years before the letter was signed. An internal review at the time, conducted by then-assistant county executive Alan Helmkamp, found that the letter was drafted by the county's top lawyer, Marianne Talon, and that Elder approved final edits. The review didn't explain who submitted the letter for Ficano's signature.

When Elder was deposed in the suit earlier this month, he refused to discuss the severance.

Schenk wouldn't comment Thursday on who submitted the letter for Ficano's signature, saying the internal review included confidentiality. But he confirmed that he and others left items with Ficano's assistant for his signature.

"That was a standard practice," Schenk told

the *Free Press*. "Someone would typically review what was put into that folder that it was OK to sign."

When Mullin was deposed in April 2012, she also declined to answer questions about her severance.

Segue claims Mullin fired him for refusing to transfer more than \$170,000 in fees generated by a tax credit program into the Wayne County Business Development Corp., a nonprofit group that paid Mullin bonuses beyond her \$200,000 salary. Segue said the transfer would have been illegal.

Segue's lawyer, Michael Pitt, argued that the way Mullin's severance was engineered was proof of her "insatiable greed."

"Throughout her time with Wayne County, Mullin took advantage of her position as the county's chief development officer to work inside deals to get her more and more compensation," Pitt wrote in court pleadings this week. "Her efforts to strong-arm Segue

*"I never just sign anything, there's got to be a review by somebody that says this is OK to sign, that it's consistent with... your signature, so go ahead and sign it."*

ROBERT FICANO  
former county executive

were consistent with this pattern of using her exalted insider status to financially reward herself."

Pitt wants Wayne County Circuit Judge John Murphy to compel Mullin and Elder to answer questions about the severance.

Mullin testified that she fired Taylor for incompetence and that he was never in a position to transfer the money. Former Chief Financial Officer Carla Sledge would have transferred the money, Mullin said. Ficano also testified

that when Mullin took the county's top development job, he agreed that her compensation would mirror that of her predecessor, Mulu Birru. Birru's contract called for a year's pay as severance if he were fired without cause.

Ficano testified that when he learned the county never executed a contract with Mullin detailing her compensation including severance, he wanted something in writing to reflect his deal with her.

"I said, 'OK, we're all lawyers here. Let's memorialize it, because I gave her an oral agreement,'" Ficano said.

Unlike Birru, who was forced out, Mullin left voluntarily to become CEO of Metro Airport with a salary of \$250,000.

When asked whether he paid attention to the content of the letter as he signed it, Ficano said: "I was following the procedure that we've always followed: That someone reviewed it, they said it was OK to sign, so I went ahead and signed it."

# Bentivolio files for bankruptcy after losing court case

Former 'accidental' congressman lists debts of nearly \$300,000

By Todd Spangler  
Michigan.com

WASHINGTON — Former U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio filed for bankruptcy in Detroit last week, listing debts of nearly \$300,000, including \$120,000 in an ongoing claim involving a former campaign worker.

Bentivolio, a Milford Republican and former Fowlerville Community Schools teacher, served one two-year term before being soundly beat-



Bentivolio

businessman who replaced him in Congress this year.

Bentivolio's Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition, filed Feb. 23, comes as little surprise, given his campaign debts. In his year-end campaign finance

report, filed in late January, he listed debts of more than \$128,000 — \$80,000 of that owed to Robert Dindoffer — against \$3,052 cash on hand.

Dindoffer ran Bentivolio's successful campaign in 2012 but later sued the congressman in Oakland County Circuit Court claiming he was owed more than \$150,000 in back payments.

As of last July, it appeared according to the campaign finance records that Bentivolio no longer disputed a claim he listed as \$90,000.

Yet the legal dispute with Dindoffer clearly

cost Bentivolio dearly: The debts included in the bankruptcy filing included more than \$50,000 in legal representation and advice, as well as an unsecured claim for \$120,000 from Dindoffer's lawyer.

It was not immediately known if that included the amount claimed by Dindoffer, his lawyer's fees or both.

Bentivolio also has \$109,228 in secured claims against him including mortgages on his house in Milford and a lien by the Congressional Federal Credit Union.

He listed assets of \$269,246 — though the

vast majority of that was wrapped up in personal and real property unavailable to cover his debts, including his home, its furnishings and his pensions.

Known widely as the "accidental" congressman, Bentivolio was a political novice when he suddenly became the only Republican on the ballot in Michigan's Republican-leaning U.S. House 11th District in 2012 after the incumbent, Rep. Thad McCotter of Livonia, quit amid a scandal over fraudulent re-election petition signatures.

The Republican estab-

lishment attempted to field a write-in candidate to replace Bentivolio but lost, sending the former educator, reindeer rancher and National Guardsman to Congress.

But Bentivolio had little chance against Trotter, with the challenger lining up support across the district, especially in Oakland County Republican circles, and outspending the incumbent by better than 5-to-1.

The 11th District includes western Wayne and Oakland counties, as well as an area in and around Birmingham.

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# Strategies for covering income shortfalls

**Q: Dear Rick: I'm in my mid-60s and have been divorced for five years. Alimony and my part-time job cover my living expenses. My alimony ends later this year. How should I cover my shortfall? My employer says I can work full time and that would more than cover my living expenses. I could begin to draw down on my IRA. I currently have about \$300,000 in my IRA. However, other than my IRA, I have very**



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

**little money. I could take my IRA and convert it into a life annuity. A life annuity, working part time and Social Security should leave me in good shape. What should I do?**

**A: I love the idea that you have focused on options available to you. I**

wish more people would do that. It's great that you have options.

In reviewing your options, I recommend you remain working. Doing so gives you the greatest flexibility in the future. The fact that you don't mind working and the money in your IRA will continue to grow is a win-win for you. Another benefit is there will be fewer years that you will need money from your portfolio, thus assuring you won't run out of mon-

ey. My least favorite option is to take your IRA money and buy a lifetime annuity. It's not that I'm totally against lifetime annuities, because in certain situations they fit a need. However, it is a mistake to take your entire portfolio and annuitize it. This gives you little flexibility down the road.

Once you take a lifetime annuity, you no longer have use of the principal. And one should not

use his or her entire portfolio — only a portion of it. It is a mistake for any investor to irrevocably tie up his or her money. In a world that is constantly changing, having flexibility with money allows one to adapt. If all your money is coming from Social Security and a lifetime annuity, it offers little flexibility and little opportunity to change.

As we live longer and costs rise, more people should look for opportu-

nities to continue their careers for as long as possible. After all, working a few more years may be the difference between a comfortable retirement and one that leaves you struggling. Good luck.

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

## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR



A traditional fashion show will be part of Chinese New Year event at The Village Theater in Canton.

### CHINESE NEW YEAR

**Date:** Saturday, March 7, 7 p.m.  
**Location:** The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

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

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

### 'DOWNTON ABBEY' TEA

**Date/Time:** Sunday, March 29, 2-4 p.m.

**Location:** Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main

**Details:** The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts a *Downton Abbey* tea. The highlight of the afternoon, aside from the scrumptious tea delicacies, will be the fashion show of styles based on the popular *Downton Abbey* TV series. The fashion show will be presented by reenacting members of the Plymouth Living History Troupe of the Plymouth Historical Museum. Tickets are \$25 for members of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum and \$30 for non-members, before March 20; after that date, add \$5 to the price.

**Contact:** For more information, call 734-455-8940.

### HOSPICE SUPPORT

**Dates/Times:** First and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman

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

**Contact:** For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement coordinator, at 888-983-9050 or email [achristensen@cchnet.net](mailto:achristensen@cchnet.net).

### BRAIN NEUROBICS

**Date/Time:** Second and Fourth Thursday through May 2015, 10 a.m.

**Location:** Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty

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

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

### PAGAN HOURS

**Dates/Times:** Fourth Monday of each month, 7 p.m.; fourth Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.

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

**Details:** State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, announces the schedule for her monthly coffee hours. Pagan invites residents to join her to discuss their

thoughts and ideas about how she can best represent and address the needs of her constituents. Pagan encourages interested residents to sign up for her e-newsletter, which will provide updates of her work at the Capitol and in the community.

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

### DROP-IN KNITTING

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

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

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

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

### CRAFTERS WANTED

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

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

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

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

### COACHES NEEDED

**Date/Time:** Saturdays in spring and fall

**Location:** Bilkie Family Field,

### downtown Plymouth

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

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

### CLOTHING BANK

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

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

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

**Contact:** For more information, email [info@cantoncf.org](mailto:info@cantoncf.org) or call 734-404-2480.

### PFLAG MEETING

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

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

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

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

## Local United Way announces annual meeting, awards

The Plymouth Community United Way holds its 2015 Meeting and Awards Presentation 7:30-9 a.m. Friday, March 27, at Comcast, 41112 Concept Drive, Plymouth. The public is welcome.

The meeting and awards presentation is a way to show appreciation for those who contributed to the 2014-15 fundraising campaign and provided community service. It is also an opportunity for the public to learn about the work the nonprofit does in Plymouth, Canton and western Wayne County.

The morning begins with networking and a continental breakfast, followed by the meeting at 8 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new board members and officers and includes reports on

the organization's 2014 finances and programs.

Lou Whitlock, PCUW board of directors chairman, then recognizes contributors with platinum, gold, silver, bronze and community service awards. Last year, Johnson Controls received the platinum award, the highest level attained by key contributors and one the company has achieved for the last 25 years.

To sign up for the meeting, call Sarah Scholl at 734-453-6879, ext. 2, or send an email to [sarah.scholl@pcuw.org](mailto:sarah.scholl@pcuw.org) by Wednesday, March 11.

PCUW has served the local community since 1944, focusing on basic needs, education and stability. For more information, go to [www.plymouthunitedway.org](http://www.plymouthunitedway.org).

## Summer camp registration begins March 14

Registration for 2015 Canton Leisure Services summer camp programs will begin in person and online Saturday, March 14, at the 2015 Camp Fair at the Summit on the Park community center in Canton.

The Camp Fair will take place from 10 a.m. until noon in the Summit banquet center, located at 46000 Summit Parkway. In addition to registration and information, refreshments and kids activities will be free to attendees.

"With a summer filled with exciting opportunities for kids of all ages, registration will fill up quickly," Recreation Specialist Jennifer Girard said. "Register early and don't spend your summer on the wait list."

The Camp Fair represents the opening of Canton summer camp registration and also kicks off the in-person

registration for Canton Leisure Services spring and summer classes and programs.

The theme of Canton's summer camps in 2015 is a "Michigan-Made Summer." Canton's summer camp offerings include day camps, preschool camps, sport camps, special-needs programs, art camps, science and education camps and many more.

For those new to the Canton area or to summer camps, Canton Leisure Services will be providing Summer Camp Concierges at the Camp Fair. To schedule an appointment with a Summer Camp Concierge during the event, call 734-394-5474.

For more information on Canton's summer camp offerings and other recreation and education programs, contact 734-394-5460 or go to [www.cantonfun.org](http://www.cantonfun.org).

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Maundy Thursday - 12:10p.m. - Holy Communion  
Good Friday - 12:00 - 3:00p.m. Stations of the Cross  
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**MAPPING**

A doctor sees a patient with fibromyalgia and anxiety, and begins the medication Klonopin to treat the patient's anxiety. Over several visits, the doctor and patient establish that Klonopin 2 mgm 2x/day, the maximum dose, seems the right fit for the patient.

At her last visit the patient stated she was going to Nevada for the next 4 months and asked for a 3 month supply of Klonopin plus extra for the 4th month explaining that she did not want to start with a new doctor in Nevada just for a one month supply of Klonopin. The doctor agrees to write a prescription with the added doses of the medication.

Later the doctor feels uneasy about his decision to give additional medication and turns to MAPS to confirm his concern. What is MAPS?

It stands for Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS), a service to physicians and pharmacists provided by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. MAPS allows a doctor to learn if patients are receiving controlled substances such as Vicodin and Klonopin from other physicians, how much and how often.

In this case, the doctor learned that the patient was going to another physician and receiving from that doctor another prescription of Klonopin 4 mgm a day. The patient was using both physicians to feed her drug habit. The information MAPS provided allowed the investigating doctor to call the other physician who unknowingly was supplying an equal amount of drug. The two doctors put a swift end to the patient's fraud.

MAPS is a valuable tool to combat drug abuse and is an example of government surveillance that is in the best interest of the community.

# Brightmont Academy relocating to Plymouth

Brightmont Academy, a private school specializing in one-to-one instruction, is moving its Northville campus to a new location in Plymouth that will meet the needs of more students. Beginning its third year serving the metro Detroit community, the campus includes additional individual learning rooms, a larger student commons and a study studio.

The new campus is located at 15374 N. Hag-

gerty Road, Plymouth, 1.1 miles away from the previous location. In addition, a new Brightmont campus will be opening in Birmingham in early spring.

Brightmont Academy, a private school, specializes in one-to-one instruction where one experienced teacher works with one student throughout every learning session.

"We are excited to expand our campus and

to be able to offer an enhanced learning environment to our students," Campus Director Cathi Stojkov said. "With more space, we will have increased availability for students who can benefit from one-to-one instruction."

The new design includes 50 percent more individual learning rooms. There will also be a student gathering area and lunch room to provide students with a com-

fortable space that encourages socializing during break times. A mobile science cart will allow students to complete more complex labs with safety in mind. And a new, quiet study area with computers provides an area for independent work.

"One-to-one instruction at Brightmont Academy fully individualizes the learning process to effectively address a wide range of learning

challenges," founder Ruth Wilson said. "This is a proven model that addresses a range of student needs — those with learning difficulties, those who need support to graduate and for those students wanting to accelerate their studies."

Brightmont Academy offers three enrollment options to customize the learning program to the needs of each student and family. Students can attend full time and earn

a diploma issued by Brightmont Academy, take courses to earn credit toward a diploma issued by their local high school or receive K-12 tutoring support.

Brightmont Academy, Northville, is currently accepting enrollments and will hold an open house once the new campus opens.

Parents can tour the new school by contacting the campus at 734-548-8740.

# 'Biggest Loser' contestant rolls out 2015 version of Buddy Up

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

In 2012, Buddy Shuh started a journey to healthier life as a contestant on NBC's *The Biggest Loser*. He left the show with fellow contestant Mark Cornelison two weeks before it ended, but the lessons learned have stayed with him.

And it's those lessons that the Wayne resident is sharing in his third installment of *Buddy Up*, an eight-week health and fitness program that starts with a kickoff weekend March 13-15.

"The goal isn't to get a permanent weight loss by a certain date, it's to get healthy," Shuh said. "It's about wanting permanent change and the things you want to do, like enjoying food and exercise."

*Buddy Up* will be held 9:30-11:15 a.m. each Saturday, starting in March, at Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road. There will be registration at 9:30 a.m. Participants can weigh in weekly as a form of accountability, but it's not mandatory.

The Saturday morning program will have two 30-minute sessions. Shuh will speak about nutrition and the mental aspects of

getting healthy, with professional trainers and exercise instructors handling the 30-minute workout.

The first two years *Buddy Up* was free of charge, but this year there is a one-time \$20 registration fee, payable at check-in. The fee covers the official program binder and a T-shirt.

Registration can be done online at [healthypassport.cityofwestland.com/buddy-up-program](http://healthypassport.cityofwestland.com/buddy-up-program). Online registration runs through Tuesday, March 10. Walk-up registration will be accepted at the March 13 kickoff and at the classes March 14 and March 21.

### Inspirational evening

According to Shuh, the kickoff evening will feature inspirational stories and participants will be organized into teams. Shuh has some 20 *Buddy Up* veterans who will serve as team captains. Unlike *The Biggest Loser*, in which teams competed against each other, the *Buddy Up* teams will serve as a support group for members.

"The captains are putting together eight weeks of menus, 42 days of menus and grocery lists," Shuh said. "They'll



Wayne resident Buddy Shuh is sharing what he learned on "The Biggest Loser" with his upcoming *Buddy Up* fitness program.

hand their teams a potential meal plan and say, 'Here it is.' These are real people, not trainers."

He stressed that the work being done by the captains "has to pass the 'Buddy test.' Participants will have a caloric intake of 2,000 calories a day, which will be adjusted for weight.

"It has to be doable for life," he said. "I make a spinach shake and my kids like it, so it's doable. I want people to find what they love to do and do it."

Saturday, March 14, will be the first class, which will feature two 30-minute segments. Shuh will speak about nutrition and mental aspects of weight loss

and "present what influenced my life while I was on the show."

The second segment will be exercise with different instructors in programs like jazzercise, Zumba and yoga. With one spot to fill, he plans to talk to the folks at the Norway Boxing Club about joining.

"They are people who do exercise in the community, so people can go to their places and do it individually or in groups," he said.

Each week, there will be food samplings. Participants also will be given exercise challenges by their captains. Those could be walking 20 miles in one week or trying a new exercise. The goal is to find what you love to do and do it with a group.

Sunday, March 15, will be a day of inspiration. No matter what faith, participants are invited to join Shuh for an inspirational service at Merge Community Church, which meets in the auditorium of John Glenn High School at 10:30 a.m. The church was created with the merger of Journey Community Church, which Shuh belonged to, and Ekklesia Church.

Attendance is optional, but Shuh will have fitness expert Peter Nielsen as speaker at the

service. An author, TV and radio show host and former Mr. Universe, Nielsen will talk about the direct connection that physical training has to minds, emotions and spirits and how being spiritually fit builds and strengthens the very core of who people are and enables them to become what they were designed to be.

Shuh also has lined up fellow *Biggest Loser* contest Mark Cornelison to speak at the church May 3. The ending of the program also coincides with the North Bros. Ford 5K in mid-May. Program participants are strongly encouraged to register for and participate in the race.

### Healthy Passport

Shuh launched his *Buddy Up* program with the city of Westland in 2013. He estimates that more than 800 people started the program, which had average attendance of 200-250 each week. Many participants are repeating the program and, with just promotion on social media, 100 people have already signed up.

*Buddy Up* has been the cornerstone of Westland Mayor William Wild's Healthy Passport program. In announcing the program, which he called "wildly popular,"

Wild noted that, "not only does it provide a fun way to maintain an active lifestyle throughout the winter, but it does so through an individual who truly knows firsthand how living a healthy lifestyle can change an individual's life."

Shuh stresses that *Buddy Up* isn't *The Biggest Loser*, where contestants exercise six hours a day and lose two pounds a day. A more reasonable weight loss is two pounds a week.

Shuh has stayed in touch with his fellow *Biggest Loser* contestants. They have put together a support group to counsel each other and are looking at having a reunion in Pennsylvania in September. As a minister, he has performed two weddings and three baptisms for his fellow contestants. He also went to California last month to see the finale of this year's show and to show his wife and three children where he lived all those months.

"The show puts you in extreme circumstances; what your body goes through is excruciating," he said. "They say it's like being called to active duty. *Buddy Up* is a journey to living healthy."

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### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review online at [www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org) under Agendas/Minutes and in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI.

Regular Meeting dates in 2015: March 3, March 31, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 17 and December 15. Special meetings, if any, will occur on Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman  
Township Clerk

Publish: March 1, 2015

LD-000222190 3x2.5



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PLANNING COMMISSION

#### PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT 011

**PROPOSED ACTION:** AMEND THE TEXT OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 99 BY ADDING SECTION 19.1.12, PROVISIONING CENTER, TO ARTICLE XIX, IND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

**DATE OF HEARING:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
**TIME OF HEARING:** 7:00 P.M.  
**PLACE OF HEARING:** Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road  
**NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN** that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Plymouth, on its own motion, proposes to amend the text of Zoning Ordinance No. 99 by adding Section 19.1.12, Provisioning Center, to Article XIX, IND Industrial District, as follows:

- ARTICLE XIX, IND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, IS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED BY ADDING PARAGRAPH 12, PROVISIONING CENTER, TO SECTION 19.1, PRINCIPAL PERMITTED USES**
- Provisioning Center. An entity or facility in which marijuana is kept, stored, cultivated, manufactured, delivered, transferred, provided or dispensed to or for a registered qualifying patient or primary caregiver in a one-to-one relationship between a primary caregiver and a qualifying patient under the MMMA. A provisioning center is subject to Chapter \_\_\_\_, Article \_\_\_\_, of the Charter Township of Plymouth Code of Ordinances.

**ARTICLE XIX, IND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, IS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED BY RENUMBERING THE SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS ACCORDINGLY.**

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that persons interested are requested to be present. Pertinent information relative to the proposed text amendment may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, ext. 5. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth Township, MI 48170. At the public hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend approval of the text changes as proposed, or as amended.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service).

KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY  
PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: March 1, 2015

LD-000222298 3x7.5

# UFO investigator's stories are really out of this world

By Diane Gale Andreassi  
Staff Writer

Harry Willnus knows all too well that eyebrows will rise when he talks about unidentified flying objects, but that doesn't stop the retired social studies teacher from continuing his 60-year quest to see the issue become accepted by the mainstream population. "UFO sightings are reported every day around the world and in every country around the world," said the Salem resident and former president of the Mutual UFO Network, the world's largest investigative body looking into the UFO phenomena.

Willnus, like other UFO enthusiasts, asks, "Are we alone in the universe?"

That question will be the focus of his appearance on the Science Channel's show *Close Encounters*. Now in its second season, Willnus will appear on an upcoming episode scheduled to air at 10 p.m. March 10. Willnus will share his vast knowledge about the highly publicized March 1966 reported UFO sighting in Dexter. He'll be on the show again, at 10 p.m. March 31, talking about a reported sighting in Exeter, N. H.

In the March 20, 1966, Dexter case, a group of people, including police officers, reported seeing an object turn from a blue green to a brilliant red to yellow. It rose 500 feet and returned to the ground, one man said.

Trying to investigate further, the officers said they went out to the far edge of the wooded area and also saw a brilliant light appear and then disappear. The officers said when they returned to their patrol vehicle, a group of people had gathered and reported seeing something similar. These witnesses said the object departed in a western direction at a high rate of speed.

## Area reports

A UFO investigator, Willnus sat in the living room of his home and retold other stories of what he believes are extraterrestrial visits. Like a sighting by WJR-AM (760) reporter Marc Avery on Feb. 10, 1978. Avery was on his way to the airport on Interstate 275 when he and his wife saw two lights hovering over their car "for 30, 40, 50 seconds." He called the radio station and spoke on air, describing the aircraft with Warren Pierce. Willnus has the report recorded on his smart phone.

The sighting was never debunked, Willnus said. In fact, two men, who were walking in the Merriman Road and Michigan Avenue area later reported they saw a similar aircraft about five minutes before Avery's report.

The U.S. Air Force investigated UFO sightings from 1947-69, in *Project Blue Book*, which consisted of 12,618 ac-



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Harry Willnus sits near a wooden carving of an extraterrestrial being he displays in his Salem Township home.

counts spanning nearly 130,000 pages, Willnus said. The project was discontinued, however, after a committee formed at the request of President Gerald Ford concluded UFOs weren't a threat to national security.

## Sightings on the rise

Sightings have doubled in the last couple of years, Willnus said.

"This major increase shows there's something going on," he said. "It's driving the interest in the number one question: 'Are we alone?' Are there other intelligences out there?"

"After studying UFOs, it becomes obvious we are not alone," he added. "I base that on the fact that there are 200 sightings every day around the world. There's pictures, photos and movies. It's not a hoax when these crafts can disappear before our eyes. Or fly at over 1,000 miles an hour and make a right angle turn or stop on a dime."

Willnus also refers to a case involving former Novi resident Nancy Tremaine, who had described being abducted by a UFO off Orchard Drive near Meadowbrook Road in the 1960s. Former Novi Police Chief Lee BeGole, who spoke to the *Novi News* last year, didn't see the UFO, but he was on duty at the police station the night the incident occurred.

BeGole said an off-duty officer told dispatch he saw a strange object overhead and police dispatch took multiple calls from people who said they also saw a strange object in the sky.

If you ask your 10 best friends if they ever had a UFO experience, Willnus said, 10 percent would say, "yes."

"But people get laughed at once they say that," he added. "And then they say, 'I'm not going to share that again.'"

## 'I want to break this story'

"I'm getting up there and I want this story to break before I pass," he added. "Some people in the U.S. government are aware we are being visited. This is a cosmic Watergate where there is a cover-up keeping this from people. The best thing that could happen is if governments, including the United States, would come out and say, 'The UFO phenomenon is real and don't panic, because they don't appear to be here to harm us.'"

# Local hikers ready to take on the Appalachian Trail

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

A scheduling issue with undergraduate college courses may have given Livonia residents Quinn Osgood and Ryan Keeling the opportunity to pursue a dream.

Having to tack on another semester to graduate from the University of Michigan-Dearborn left Osgood looking for something to fill the nine months between graduating and starting grad school. They've decided to take a very long walk: 2,200 miles from Georgia to Maine, the Appalachian Trail, one of the most famous trails in North America.

"The first time I realized it was a real possibility to get on the trail, I realized it was going to take me nine semesters instead of eight to graduate," Osgood said. "I said, 'I have these nine months off, because I plan on going to grad school and I have nothing to do.'"

Keeling and Osgood plan to head to Georgia to begin the 2,200-mile journey Sunday. From there, they plan on hiking for several months north to the trailhead in Maine, the conclusion of the trail. The duo hopes to complete the hike by July 1.

The two have known each other since middle school and both ran cross country at Churchill High School. They continued that passion in college, running at UM-Dearborn.

But in the middle of the friendship, the two began exploring the outdoors. The biggest trip they've taken so far is a 110-mile stretch of



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Ryan Keeling and Quinn Osgood are preparing to hike the Appalachian Trail.

the Superior Hiking Trail, located in northern Minnesota.

"It was tough," Keeling said. "It was fun though."

Just recently, the two completed a practice hike snowshoeing in the Porcupine Mountains in the western Upper Peninsula.

It's taken the two several years to get prepared, picking out the right supplies and training to handle hiking for nearly 20 miles a day.

"I started thinking about it in early high school. Just toying around the idea, nothing serious," Keeling said. "We've been committed for about two years, actively organizing, buying gear."

Only about one in four "through-hikers," as they are called, successfully complete the entire trail, according to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Osgood said the portion of the trail he looks forward to will be near the end: the White Mountains of New Hampshire, home of the tallest mountain east of the Mississippi, Mount Washington.

"That's going to be the hardest

hiking of the whole trail," he said. "It makes it the most worth it."

## Preparation

In addition to collecting supplies, the two have spent a lot of time preparing food they'll need along the trail. Prepping dried food into bags for easy storage and transportation will save the pair headache and cash, not having to buy pre-packaged, dehydrated meals.

Family members will deliver the food along certain points of the trail as they come to visit, Keeling said.

"We've been preparing a lot of our food," he said. "It cuts costs a lot."

The two plan on sharing their experience with those interested from afar, posting updates to several social media sites, including Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

Those interested can follow their progress by following the Twitter handle @aetem\_tech on Facebook by searching for "AETEM Technology" and on YouTube by searching for the user name "AETEM Technology."

Osgood said an opportunity to do something like this doesn't come up often and now is the time to jump on it.

"It's just one of those great accomplishments that is just there forever and no one can take that away from you," Osgood said. "It's going to be a lot easier to do now than in the twilight years of retirement."

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# 'Save Our Youth' annual run moves to Livonia

The "Run 2 Save Our Youth," the annual 5K run/walk and 10K run, along with a Kids Fun Run and Family Expo, to benefit the Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition, is changing venues.

The run, sponsored by the coalition and the Livonia Police Department, takes place Saturday, June 6, with registration at Livonia City Hall. Also at city hall on

race day, the event will feature a Family Fun Expo.

Registration and packet-pickup begins at 7 a.m.; race time is 8:30 a.m. A free Kids Fun Run starts at 8 a.m.

Registration is open online at Active.com (although an additional processing fee applies)

or by printing a registration form from the LSOY website ([www.livoniasaveouryouth.org](http://www.livoniasaveouryouth.org)) and mailing it to Livonia Save Our Youth, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154.

Fees are \$15 (\$10 for students/seniors 60 and older) through May 31;

\$25 for adults (\$15 for students/seniors 60 and older) from April 1 through May 22; and \$25 for adults (\$25 for students/seniors 60 and older) from May 23 through race day.

For more information, email [kbonanno@livoniasaveouryouth.org](mailto:kbonanno@livoniasaveouryouth.org).

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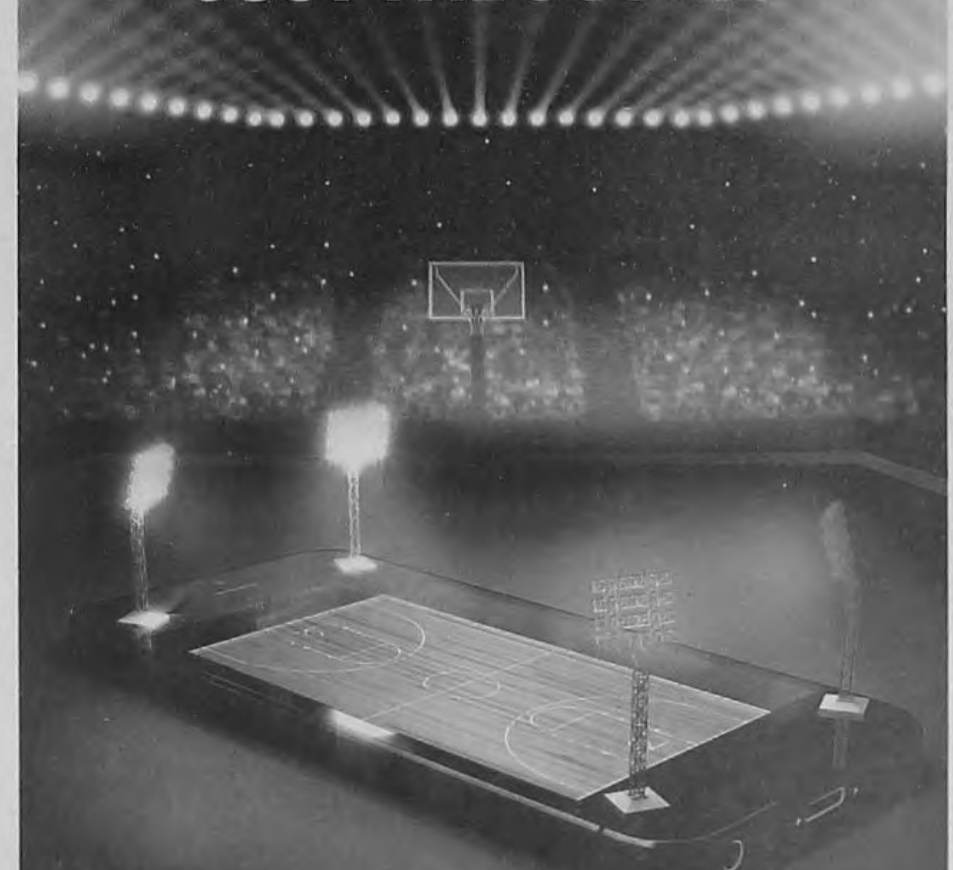
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# Lawyers for state couple file Supreme Court brief

By Todd Spangler  
Michigan.com

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for a Hazel Park couple challenging Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage submitted a brief Friday to the U.S. Supreme Court arguing the ban deprives them and their children of the "dignity, security, stability and myriad material and legal protections that marriage brings."

In their written brief, lawyers for April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse focused on the argument that since Michigan law prohibits same-sex couples from marrying as well as adopting children together, only one or the other of them is considered the legal guardian for each of their four adoptive children.

In the event of one of the parents' death or departure, that leaves the



MANDI WRIGHT | MICHIGAN.COM  
Jayne Rowse (left) and her partner April DeBoer make their way to the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

children "legal strangers" to another parent who helped raise them, in some cases from birth, said Carole Stanyar, one of the lawyers representing DeBoer, Rowse and their children.

"We filed this lawsuit originally as a challenge to (Michigan's) second-parent adoption" law,

Stanyar said. "These laws cause serious, persistent, wide-ranging injury to children. ... They (DeBoer and Rowse) wanted to make things more secure for their children."

DeBoer and Rowse's challenge to the constitutionality of the state's same-sex marriage ban is

one of four cases, including those from Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee, which the U.S. Supreme Court will hear the week of April 27.

The Supreme Court is considering whether constitutional guarantees of equal protection and due process require a state to license a marriage between same-sex couples, and whether states where same-sex marriages are banned must recognize those performed lawfully in other states.

When it rules — likely before the end of its term this summer — a decision could help settle a patchwork of state laws and legal decisions that have left same-sex marriages legal in 37 states and Washington, D.C., while leaving them illegal elsewhere.

But a decision upholding state bans, were

it to come, could deal a severe setback to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, overturning some of those court decisions already in place and emboldening same-sex marriage opponents to seek bans elsewhere.

"We recognize it's the court here which is the decider," said Mary Bonauto of the Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, who is also representing DeBoer and Rowse.

Much is still to be decided in the case, however, including which of the lawyers for which of the plaintiffs will appear during oral arguments — or even which day the arguments will be held. In Michigan's case, state Attorney General Bill Schuette has argued against overturning the ban, which was approved by 59 percent of the vot-

ers in 2004.

"This case involves people of good will, sincerely motivated, on both sides," Schuette said, reiterating his support for the court's taking the case. "Court cases by their very nature create an adversarial atmosphere ... In a democracy, reasonable people can disagree without being disagreeable."

Schuette and other state respondents will file briefs by March 27.

In Friday's brief, DeBoer and Rowse's lawyers argued the state's ban is "not rationally related to the achievement of any legitimate government purpose" and that it "stigmatizes and humiliates adults and children ... reduces the stability of relationships and ... deprives the children of the protections of having two married parents."

## U-M punishes fraternities involved in ski resort vandalism

By Katrease Stafford  
Michigan.com

The University of Michigan has banished a fraternity, suspended a sorority and issued sanctions against four other Greek organizations responsible for causing more than \$100,000 in

damages in mid-January at two ski resorts in northern Michigan.

The university announced the sanctions Friday afternoon, taking the most severe action against the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, which will no longer be recognized as a student organization on the Ann Arbor campus for four years. According to a university statement, that is the most severe sanction that can be levied on a Greek organization or any student organization on campus.

The fraternity will not be allowed to participate in any Greek Life activities and cannot recruit new members during the period of separation and the university has also asked the national office of the fraternity to revoke the charter of the U-M chapter and place

additional sanctions on the fraternity.

Members of Sigma Alpha Mu are not allowed to participate in any additional campus overnight joint fraternity and sorority events indefinitely, according to the university.

The fraternity's sister sorority, Sigma Delta Tau, has been placed on disciplinary suspension for two years after its members "stood by at Treetops Resort and allowed others to vandalize the facility," according to the university.

Some 120 members of Sigma Alpha Mu and sister sorority Sigma Delta Tau damaged 45 rooms during a weekend party rampage Jan. 17-18 at the Treetops Resort near Gaylord. The students bashed in ceiling tiles, smashed exit signs,

kicked doors off their jams and urinated on carpeting, the resort said.

"I think its great the university has done something," Treetops Resort manager Barry Owens said in a brief phone interview with the *Free Press*. "There's an investigation that's going on with (Michigan State Police) and the prosecutor's office, so that's all in their in hands now."

MSP Sgt. Jeff Gorno said the investigation is still ongoing and no charges have been filed by the Otsego County Prosecutor's Office. MSP officials previously said the interview process would be a lengthy due to the fact that there were possibly close to 200 witnesses.

"We're still working on the interviews and

things like that," Gorno said.

On the same weekend, Boyne Highlands officials said, between 100 and 120 U-M students stayed in multi-bedroom cottages and townhouse units. The students caused varying degrees of damage to 12 individual condo units, ranging from holes in drywall to soiled carpeting and upholstery and broken furniture.

The two fraternities and two sororities responsible for damages at Boyne Highlands — Alpha Phi, Chi Psi, Delta Gamma and Pi Kappa Alpha — were issued a written reprimand and some activities are being restricted, according to the university. A Boyne Highlands official said at least \$25,000 in damage was caused.

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FOCUS (R)  
11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30  
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HOT TUB TIME MACHINE 2 (R)  
FRI-SUN 11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:20  
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

MON 11:40, 2:15, 9:20  
TUE/WED 11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 9:20

THE DUFF (PG-13)  
12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:40  
FIFTY SHADES OF GREY (R)  
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55  
FRI/SAT LS 11:20

KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE (R)  
12:45, 4:00, 6:55, 9:50  
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# SPORTS

**TIM SMITH, EDITOR**  
TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM  
734-469-4128



The smiles say it all as Salem's varsity girls basketball team soaks it all in after winning the KLAA championship Thursday night.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

## CAPTAINS CRUNCHED

Long-shot no more: Salem rocks Kettering to claim first KLAA crown in six years



Salem standout senior forward Shara Long (No. 34) cuts through the Waterford Kettering defense on the way to another basket. She scored 27 points for the Rocks.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Make it the sweetest 16 possible for Salem's varsity girls basketball team.

Senior forward Shara Long was unbelievable for the host Rocks in Thursday's Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship game against No. 5-ranked Waterford Kettering.

Long scored 27 points — making big shot after big shot — to spark Salem to a 47-40 double overtime victory over the previously unbeaten Captains (19-1). The association title was the first for Salem since 2009.

"We've been fighting through adversity all year, even last year," said Salem head coach Lindsay Klemmer, referring to the December 2013 death of coach Fred Thomann. "I always tell them that mental toughness wins,

mental toughness wins. And that's what that game was tonight.

"Every timeout in the last two overtimes, I said it's who is mentally tough right now."

Klemmer, whose team has strung together 16 wins since an 0-4 start to the 2014-15 season, smiled about Long's basket at the end of the first overtime — hinting that Thomann's spirit might have had something to do with it.

**Almost miraculous**

Senior guard Jamyra Wilson, who registered 11 points and played intense defense against the physical Lakes Conference champions, made the miracle-like play happen and rescue the Rocks.

Trailing 38-36 with 4.6 seconds to go in the first OT, following a backdoor layup by Kettering senior guard

See CRUNCHED, Page B2

**BOYS PREP BASKETBALL**

## Plymouth cagers make history

Wildcats stop Churchill charge to win Kensington crown

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

The third time was much more than the charm for Plymouth's boys basketball team Friday night — it was a monumental piece of school history.

After losing two regular-season battles against Livonia Churchill, the Wildcats claimed the first boys hoops title since Plymouth opened in 2002 by blanking the host Chargers over the final 1:21 in a 56-49 victory in the KLAA Kensington Conference championship game.

Plymouth advances to Thursday's KLAA Association title showdown against the winner of Saturday's Walled Lake Central-Walled Lake Western clash.

Although the Wildcats (14-5) never trailed in the second half, they were never in a position to feel overly comfortable either, especially when Churchill's Joan Andoni nailed a fade-away jumper with 81 seconds left to pull the hosts to within 51-49.

See CROWN, Page B3



Plymouth's Randall Aikins skies to defend a shot by Churchill's Jon Hovermale Friday night.

ED WRIGHT

**USA HOCKEY**

## Coming full circle

Salem players happy to help kids 'Try Hockey for Free'

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Usually hockey players cycle down low then circle in front of the net for enough space and time to create a quality scoring chance.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, a different kind of circling was taking place during a "Try Hockey for Free" event.

Salem Rocks varsity players helped out young newbies, providing tips and encourage-

ment with hopes they might decide to take another shift somewhere soon with a house or rec league.

For several of the high school skaters, such as forwards Noah Willer and Joey Driscoll, the USA Hockey/Michigan Amateur Hockey Association event provided them with a full-circle moment — taking them back to when they first started lacing them up at similar check-it-out events.

"It was a blast," said Willer,

a senior. "My little kid, he started off not even being able to stand up. By the end he was passing pucks to me.

"It's just nice to go back to where you started, and see their faces when they first step on the ice. He was only about 5."

Willer said he was a kid skating at PCC during the same kind of program, and that it sparked an interest in the sport that only grew from

See TRY HOCKEY, Page B4



Salem senior forward Richie Corso encourages this young, budding player during a breather.

COURTESY SALEM HOCKEY

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**KLAA TOURNEY BASKETBALL**

# Wildcats learn fast, school Howell, 48-37

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Just one day after Plymouth's hopes to win the KLAA girls basketball championship were crushed by campus rival Salem, the Wildcats spent several hours re-viewing film of the painful 50-30 loss.

That study session paid off Thursday, as Plymouth went out and throttled Howell 48-37 in a KLAA tournament consolation game that Wildcats head coach Nick Brandon said sets them up nicely for the start of the Class A districts (7 p.m. Monday at Novi against the Rocks).

"There was a lot to learn in a lot of areas that we knew we needed to be better," Brandon stressed. "And I think the great thing about tonight was everything we saw on film that we needed to improve we improved at, and that's the mark of a really focused and dedicated team."

"It gives us solid positive momentum heading into districts on Monday."

Spearheading Plymouth (17-3) with 16 points and 10 rebounds was senior post Patti Begoske, who Brandon said was "sensational" against the Highlanders.

Begoske also scored 18 in the Feb. 24 loss to Salem.

Chipping in with 10 points was Courtney LaVallee, with Cassidy Lewis and Kendall Rose adding nine and eight points, respectively.

That Rose — held scoreless in the first half against Howell — was able to hit a "couple really big threes" in the second half should give her and the Wildcats a boost in the district matchup against the Rocks, Bran-



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth senior post Patti Begoske (No. 10) looks to pass the ball during Thursday night's KLAA girls basketball tournament contest against Howell.

don noted.

Howell led 14-6 after one quarter, but the Wildcats went to work with a 17-2 run in the second to go up 23-16 at halftime.

The Highlanders (12-8 overall) tied the game 32-32 in the third thanks to a 10-0 run, but Plymouth responded again.

"Once they tied it we made a couple quick baskets in our press and started wearing Howell down," Brandon said. "We were able to secure the lead through to the end of the game."

Brandon said it was key to bounce back against Howell, a team that only lost by three points to Waterford Kettering in the Lakes Conference title game.

"They're a very good team," he added. "What's nice for us, is we got a quality win against a

quality team heading into districts. So we're hoping that gives us a lot of positive energy going into Monday."

**LAKELAND 54, CANTON (GIRLS) 44:** The Chiefs fell into an early 18-8 hole and could not recover, despite 16 points from Erin Hult.

Canton head coach Kevin Palmer lauded the defense of guard Natalie Winters (eight rebounds, five steals). "It was really a good defensive performance from Natalie, but that's kind of expected."

Also helping the Chiefs (11-9) with eight points each were Rio Santo, Madison Archibald and Alexa Lagola.

**SALEM (BOYS) 63, NORTHVILLE 55:** On Wednesday, Jon Swift scored 23 points and Kenny Topolovec registered 15 points and 13 rebounds to spark the Rocks (13-4) to a KLAA tournament boys basketball victory.

**PLYMOUTH (BOYS) 51, JOHN GLENN 48:** A 20-point game by Brent Davis lifted the Wildcats to a Wednesday win over host Westland John Glenn.

Armani Tate (11 points), Josh Reynolds (9) and Randall Atkins (8) also helped Plymouth (13-5) reach Friday's Kensington Conference boys basketball final against Livonia Churchill.

**CANTON (BOYS) 42, NOVI 33:** The visiting Chiefs Wednesday broke a 20-20 tie after three frames with a 22-13 surge in the fourth to improve to 14-4 overall.

Leading Canton with 15 points was Jalen Cochran.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem senior guard Jamyra Wilson, active all night in her team's championship win, dribbles up the floor against a Waterford Kettering defender.

## CRUNCHED

Continued from Page B1

Julia Kroll, the Rocks in-bounded the ball under their own basket.

Senior wing Hayley Rogers lofted the ball from behind the baseline to Wilson who quickly dribbled across the mid-court line before launching a shot toward the Captains' basket.

Long — knowing the ball was falling short of the rim — got up to catch it and in one motion tallied a bank-shot layup to tie it 38-all at the horn. She was in mid-air when she caught and flipped the ball toward the backboard.

"That was absolutely the right spot at the right time, I feel like Fred was looking out for us on that one," Klemmer said. "It just happened to land in her hands and she made a great play."

"She threw it at about half court and Shara just happened to be in the right spot. ... Obviously that put it into the second overtime. That was the game right there, if she doesn't make that it's over."

Long and Wilson had different takes on the play, however.

"Jamyra, she always knows how to pass to me, she's a great passer," Long said. "She draws the defense in and knows exactly when to dump it down at the right time. I was fortunate enough to power through and hit it."

Was it an intentional pass?

"Yeah, of course, I don't doubt my teammate at all," Long added. "She's always looking for the extra pass, she's a great guard."

Wilson, however, said she was shooting the ball "and thankfully she caught it. I'm glad she was there, it was kind of an alley-oop, that's what

we're going to call it. I'm out of words, but I'm glad she was there to catch it and put it in."

In the second four-minute overtime it was all Salem. Freshman guard Lasha Petree's steal led to the go-ahead bucket by Long, on another layup, and the Rocks never trailed again, icing the victory by making 7-8 from the free-throw line.

Chipping in from the charity stripe were Rogers (3-3), Wilson and Long (2-2 each).

### Underdog mentality

"We were the underdogs coming in," Wilson said. "Nobody thought we were going to win but us and our families and our supporters."

"So we just took that and built on it and we did a great job of handling situations."

Salem had to deal with some early adversity against the favored Captains, trailing 8-2 with just two minutes played.

But Long, as she did all night, kept the Rocks afloat. She nailed a triple to make it 8-5 and hit another 3-ball with 1:30 left in the first to slice the Kettering edge to 13-10. The frame ended 15-12, following a driving bank shot by Wilson.

Long's third trey of the first half knotted the score at 17-17 with 5:15 remaining before intermission and both teams then endured a three-minute scoring drought.

"I didn't think she'd come out shooting threes," Klemmer said. "But when she made all of them obviously I'm going to let that go. Shara's been ... our glue, all of the seniors but mainly her."

"She's our big presence down low, she can step out and shoot the ball. And again, her teammates all know how to get her the ball. She knows how to finish."

Salem senior guard Katie Latack scored the go-ahead basket with 2:10 to play in the second quarter, a beautiful finger roll through the lane, putting the Rocks up 19-17 at halftime.

Kettering owned the third quarter, outscoring Salem 11-4 to take a 28-23 lead into the fourth. The Rocks only managed four free throws (all by Long) during that stanza.

### Not just yet

The Rocks kept bouncing back, however, going on a 9-2 run in the fourth to lead 34-30 with 24 seconds remaining in regulation. Salem's pressure defense had a lot to do with the surge, forcing the Captains into numerous turnovers.

Salem could not seal the deal in regulation, though. Kettering sent the game to overtime at 34-34 when junior guard Haley Tewes (10 points) hit two free throws with 1.8 seconds on the clock.

Leading the Captains with 12 points was sophomore forward Lillia Schoof, who briefly put Kettering up 36-34 early in the first overtime with a strong putback off the glass.

In that first OT, the Rocks were abysmal in the shooting department, misfiring six times from behind the 3-point arc. For the game, Salem hit 13-51 (just over 25 percent), including 3-18 in triple attempts.

Fortunately, Salem was outstanding from the free-throw line, making 18 of 21 chances.

The Rocks now will face Plymouth 7 p.m. Monday in a Class A district opener at Novi High School. Salem defeated the Wildcats 50-30 Tuesday for the Kensington Conference championship.

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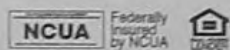


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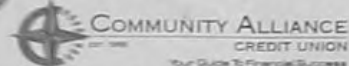
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COLLEGE SOFTBALL  
PREVIEW

# Crusaders' softball aspirations elevated

MU returns top-notch pitcher in Crampton

By Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

Weather permitting, of course, the Madonna University women's softball team opened its 2015 season last weekend in Pulaski, Tenn. with higher expectations than a year ago.

The Crusaders are eager to get going after finishing 34-10 in 2014, which included a runner-up finish to Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season champion Davenport University (with a 15-3 mark). MU was also knocked out by the WHAC champions, 8-6, in the postseason tourney.

So the goal now is to leapfrog the conference favorite Panthers and earn at trip to the NAIA National Tournament.

Jerry Abraham, in his second stint as MU coach, remains optimistic thanks to the return of senior Bree Crampton (Anchor Bay), the All-Region and WHAC Pitcher of the Year who posted a 20-7 record with a 1.85 earned run average.

The right-hander struck out 225 in 162.1 innings and will be backed up once again by sophomore right-hander Erin Combs, who went 13-3 with a 3.67 ERA in 112 innings.

The Crusaders should also have a stellar double-play combination with junior Emma Cook (Marysville) returning at short and sophomore Nicole Salloum (Livonia Churchill) back at second.

Cook, an All-WHAC and All-Region selection, led the Crusaders with a .429 batting average and a team-high 54 hits, while Salloum, an honorable mention All-WHAC pick, hit .314 with 30 RBI.

"I hoping we're very strong defensively and with pitching," Abraham said. "We have experience on the mound, of course, with Bree (Crampton) and Erin (Combs) getting better with a year's experience. Mikey (Kish) is tough at the catching position. We're very strong up with our shortstop (Nicky Salloum) and second base (Emma Cook). The question mark right now is at third base."

Kish, a junior from Allen Park, takes over behind the plate for the graduated Kristen Drabek, who hit .327 en route to All-WHAC honors. Kish, who played in the outfield last year hitting .343, will be backed up by junior Hayley Wallace (Davison) and sophomore Breanna Keethler (Flat Rock).

Senior Kasey Trierwiler (Grand Ledge), who hit .318 last year as an outfielder, will get a crack at the third base position along with sophomores Morgan Thompson (Port Huron Northern) and Bri Giordano (Plymouth).

Replacing four-time All-WHAC first baseman Erin Mayes, who hit .386 with eight homers and 39 RBI, will be Abraham's biggest challenge. (Mayes was the school's all-time home run leader.)

Sophomore Kayla Rebain (Plymouth), who batted .333, is scheduled to take over after playing last season in the outfield.

Senior returnee Karleigh Creighton (North Farmington) will start in center field, while sophomore Morgan Kaiser (Flat Rock) gets the initial nod in left.

Sophomore Bria DeBono (Lapeer West) and freshman Julia Cavagnini (Churchill) will also earn strong looks in the outfield. Two freshman, Malloory Daschke (Novi) and junior Jillian Kraatz (Allen Park Inter-City Baptist), are vying for playing time as well.

Freshman Paige Montague, a left-hander from Clio, and Erika Randall, a right-hander from Livonia Stevenson, will provide bullpen depth.

The Crusaders, who will also play Feb. 27 through March 5 in Florida, are scheduled to open their WHAC season Saturday, March 28 with a double-header at UM-Dearborn.

That's weather permitting, of course.

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PCA BASKETBALL TWINBILL

# Eagles clipped by spate of early turnovers

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

On "Senior Night" at Plymouth Christian Academy, a rash of turnovers in the first half pushed the Eagles' varsity girls basketball team into an insurmountable hole.

PCA gave the ball up 17 times in the first two quarters Friday and Allen Park Inter-City Baptist took full advantage, building a 16-5 lead after one frame and coasting to a 60-44 Michigan Independent Athletic Conference victory.

"The 17 turnovers put us down in a tough spot," Eagles head coach Rod Windle said. "First-half turnovers knocked us out of a chance to compete a little bit."

"They got points off turnovers and that's what really hurt us tonight."

To their credit, the Eagles turned things around somewhat after halftime (when senior co-captains Danielle Witkowski, Raina Postma and team manager Julia Shaffer were introduced with their parents for Senior Night.)

PCA (4-16 overall, 2-14 in the MIAC) trailed 31-15 at the break and 48-26 going into the fourth.

In the final frame, the Eagles outpointed the Chargers 18-12 to make the final score more respectable.

Sophomore forward Lydia Chapel registered six points in the final stanza while both Witkowski and Postma added four points each.

"We competed and stayed around," Windle noted. "Our shooting was pretty solid tonight, we just didn't give ourselves enough chances, giving the ball away."

According to Witkowski, although the record this season has been disappointing she is "really proud of all the girls and how much they've improved."

As for next Wednesday's Class D district game at Taylor Baptist Park, she said the Eagles are "really excited, I think we'll do really well."

For that to happen, Windle said, the team will need "just keep working hard, digging in. If we give ourselves a chance without turnovers it's a different game for us."

Those turnovers Friday were the result of the Chargers putting constant defensive pressure on the Eagles, he explained.

Chapel had a solid game in defeat, with 13 points and seven rebounds.

Chipping in with eight points and five boards was sophomore forward Aliyah Pries. Adding seven points was freshman guard Robin Albert.

Leading Inter-City Baptist with 19 points was Mikayla



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth Christian senior co-captain Raina Postma (No. 22) looks to drive to the basket Friday night.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Working the ball into the paint against Inter-City Baptist defender Mikayla Thoue (right) is Plymouth Christian senior co-captain Danielle Witkowski.

Thoue while Karalynn Goeing tallied 13.

PCA boys fall

Just like what happened in the opener of Friday's PCA-Inter-City Baptist basketball doubleheader, the host Eagles fell way behind the Chargers early on in the nightcap — unable to come all the way back.

Inter-City Baptist amassed a 32-6 lead after the opening

frame, but the pesky Eagles made the visitors work hard over the final three frames. PCA ultimately dropped the MIAC varsity boys basketball contest by a 82-65 count.

The Eagles actually outscored the Chargers 13-2 over the first 5:30 of the fourth to cut the gap to 71-59.

Leading the Eagles with 29 points was freshman Matthew Malcolm, while senior Evan Horne and junior Luke Yakub-

er each chipped in with eight points for PCA (6-13).

Also helping the PCA cause on offense were senior center Michael Slater and senior guard Lucas Albrecht, with seven and six points, respectively.

"I just told them to not give up and play very hard and anything can happen as long as you play hard and aggressive," said Eagles assistant coach Monte Dennard. "That first quarter, it took us a while to get going offensively."

"But they (Chargers) are a very good team, they were getting some threes and we got a little shell-shocked. But in the second quarter we settled down a little bit, and the third and fourth quarter I thought we played them pretty good."

Inter-City Baptist carried a 54-25 advantage into the half-time break and the Eagles actually were the much better team in the second half, sparked by some long-range shooting by Malcolm and Slater.

"I like our kids effort, they play really hard and aggressive," added Dennard, whose team will host Franklin Jewish Academy 7 p.m. Tuesday for Senior Night.

The Class D boys districts will commence the following week.

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# CROWN

Continued from Page B1

Plymouth countered, however, with possibly the sequence of the night when senior Randall Aikins secured the ensuing in-bounds pass and streaked down the left side of the court until he laid in a soft left-handed lay-up to give his team a 53-49 advantage.

Churchill's Jon Hovermale missed a well-defended, eight-foot runner at the other end, Plymouth's Deji Adebisi snatched the rebound and fired a half-court pass to Josh Reynolds, whose break-away finger-roll with 34 ticks left gave the 'Cats an insurmountable six-point cushion.

Plymouth's co-scoring leaders with 15 points each — Adebisi and Reynolds — starred at opposite ends of the game. Adebisi scored eight of his team's 15 first-quarter points while Reynolds served the role of closer as he netted nine in the final eight minutes.

Andoni, who attended Plymouth's Central Middle School with Adebisi before his family moved to Livonia, paced the Chargers with 22 points.

Plymouth's break-out season has been the result of teamwork and unselfishness, Adebisi emphasized.

"Our saying from the beginning of the season has been 'We before me,'" the 6-foot-4, 205-pound senior forward said. "The biggest key tonight — and for the whole season, really — is that all 13 guys sold out for each other."

"Looking around right now, seeing everybody smiling, knowing all of our hard work paid off ... it feels amazing."



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

The Plymouth Wildcats celebrate after winning the Kensington Conference championship Friday night at Livonia Churchill.

This is one of the best feelings I've ever had."

Plymouth fifth-year head coach Mike Soukup echoed Adebisi's sentiment moments after he embraced his wife and young daughter with victory hugs.

"Honestly, I'm so happy right now, I'm numb," said Soukup, his voice tinted with his usual post-game hoarseness. "This probably won't set in until tomorrow."

"Before the season started, myself and my assistant coaches (Ryan Ballard, Jon Schneider and Carl Sumpter) felt this could be a special team, but we had some disappointing stretches early on and we didn't do as well as we thought we were going to do. "The turn-around game was

when we beat Canton on a buzzer-beater. Tonight, we made enough plays to keep them at bay. It was nerve-racking, for sure."

With Hovermale lighting the fuse, the Chargers bolted to an 8-0 lead in the opening three minutes and it appeared Churchill was on the way to its first Kensington crown since 2010.

However, the Wildcats regrouped quickly and finished the quarter strong, taking a 15-13 lead on a buzzer-beating dunk by Adebisi.

Plymouth led 23-21 at the half, but Hovermale knotted it up just over a minute into the third quarter with an aggressive drive through traffic.

Back-to-back buckets by Plymouth super-sub Pete Car-

ravalleh — the second an old-fashioned three-point play — put the 'Cats up 28-23 and they would never trail again.

"We battled and battled all night, but we just missed too many shots," said Churchill head coach Jim Solak. "A lot of our misses were due to their defense. They played good, old-fashioned, lock-down man-to-man defense. When you miss three, four, five or six shots in a row against a team that is playing as well as Plymouth is right now, they're going to make you pay."

Aikins scored 11 points for the winners, who were 12-for-18 from the free-throw line. Churchill made just two of six freebies.

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OHL HOCKEY

# Milano turns it up in Whalers' 6-3 win

Plymouth just five points back of last playoff spot

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Sonny Milano went off Thursday night against the Sarnia Sting and in the process flipped the "on" switch to the Plymouth Whalers' playoff hopes. The Whalers overcame an early 2-1 deficit to the Sting and rolled to a 6-3 Ontario Hockey League victory. Milano netted his 17th and 18th goals of the season, both

in the third period, and chipped in with two assists as Plymouth inched closer to the eighth and final playoff spot in the OHL Western Conference. Also superb for the Whalers was goaltender and Carolina Hurricanes prospect Alex Nedeljkovic, who stopped 39 of 42 shots as Plymouth defeated Sarnia for the second time in five days. Entering Saturday night's home game against Ottawa, Plymouth (21-32-2-2, 46 points) are just five points behind Saginaw and Windsor — deadlocked for eighth. Victor Crus Rydberg got the Whalers off and running Thursday with his 11th goal of the season, from Milano and

Will Bitten, at 5:25 of the first period. Sarnia netted a pair of markers to go up 2-1 entering the middle stanza, but Plymouth tallied three successive goals (by Mitch Jones, Mathew Campagna and Connor Sills, the latter shorthanded). The Sting closed the gap to 4-3 when Hayden Hodgson scored at 18:29 of the second. Milano restored some breathing room with a power-play goal at 8:37 of the third, from Bitten and Mathieu Henderson and capped off the night's scoring at 14:10 with an unassisted tally.



RENA LAVERTY  
PLYMOUTH  
WHALERS  
Plymouth Whalers forward Danny Vanderwiell (left) collides with a Sarnia player.

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COURTESY PLYMOUTH SWIMMING

Plymouth's varsity boys swimming and diving team won the KLAASouth Division meet last weekend at Westland John Glenn.



COURTESY SALEM HOCKEY

Playing catch during the "Try Hockey for Free" event are Salem hockey player Joey Driscoll and a youngster.

## Record-setting relays spark Wildcats' tankers

Plymouth quartet sets pair of marks, helps lift team to division title

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Catapulted by the quartet of Ben Yang, Garrett Beauprez, Ryan Heinze and Michael Wischer, Plymouth captured last weekend's KLAASouth Division boys swimming and diving meet at John Glenn. The Wildcats also went undefeated in KLAASouth dual meets and capped off their division dominance Feb. 20-21, tallying 672 points — well ahead of second-place Canton's 520. Senior co-captains Yang, Heinze, junior co-captain Beauprez and sophomore Wischer teamed up to set two division meet records. They won the 200-yard medley relay (1:41.9) and 400 free relay in record times of 1:41.9 and 3:23.13, respectively. Yang and Beauprez also

excelled individually for the KLAASouth champions. Yang took the top spot in the 100 butterfly (55.40) and 100 backstroke (56.48) while Beauprez prevailed in the 200 individual medley (2:03.85) and 100 breaststroke (1:05.89). Other Plymouth firsts were recorded by sophomore Matt Weiner in the 200 free (1:55.92) and the 200-free relay tandem of Wischer, sophomore Jack Boczar, Heinze and senior co-captain Brandon Burger (1:31.35).

**KLAASOUTH MEET**  
Feb. 20-21 at John Glenn  
FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth, 672 points; 2. Canton, 520; 3. Wayne Memorial, 370; 4. Livonia Churchill, 268; 5. Livonia Franklin, 245; 6. Westland John Glenn, 169.

**1-METER DIVING:** 1. Ethan Burke (LC), 476.40 points; 2. Jordan Groves (P), 270.90; 3. Justin Wozniak (JG), 267.55; 4. Patrick Holton (LC), 249.05; 5. Calvin Rogers (P), 234.75; 6. Sean Linden (JG), 233.25; 7. Kevin Tartar (LC), 233.10; 8. Andrew Saltzman (LC), 229.40.

**200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY:** 1. Plymouth "A" (Ben Yang, Garrett Beauprez, Ryan Heinze, Michael Wischer), 1:41.9; 2. Plymouth "B", 1:44.70; 3. Canton "A", 1:49.33; 4. Franklin (Ethan Nordstrom, Ryan Cossin, Austin Klotz, Jacob Forgacs), 1:51.52; 5. Wayne (Ethan Drouillard, Jacob Griffith, Michael Gibson, Tye Moore), 1:53.69; 6. Canton "B", 1:57.95; 7. Churchill (Dylan Fetter, Kyle Reppenhausen, Tyler Opydyke, Jason Henzi), 2:00.63.

**200-YARD FREESTYLE:** 1. Matt Weiner (P), 1:55.92; 2. Kevin Taylor (LC), 1:56.36; 3. Jacob Forgacs (LC), 1:57.39; 4. Derek Goderis (C), 1:59.93; 5. Ethan Drouillard (WM), 2:00.03; 6. Liam Deppong (C), 2:00.82; 7. Jason Burcicki (JG), 2:01.04; 8. Ethan Nordstrom (LF), 2:01.34.

**200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY:** 1. Garrett Beauprez (P), 2:03.85; 2. Bronson Knowles (P),

2:08.43; 3. Daniel Mullen (C), 2:11.52; 4. Nicholas Case (P), 2:11.92; 5. Kyle Reppenhausen (LC), 2:14.14; 6. Ryan Cossin (LF), 2:19.02; 7. Blake Barber (WM), 2:26.88; 8. Caleb Styles (C), 2:29.17.

**50-YARD FREESTYLE:** 1. Noah Karson (WM), 22.79; 2. Michael Wischer (P), 22.89; 3. Brandon Burger (P), 23.43; 4. Gerard Niermann (C), 23.55; 5. Devin Gibson (WM), 24.10; 6. Ethan Byrnes (P), 24.69; 7. Tye Moore (WM), 24.86; 8. Tai Varus Lumpkin, 25.10.

**100 BUTTERFLY:** 1. Ben Yang (P), 55.40; 2. Tristen Shao (C), 57.65; 3. Austin Klotz (LF), 58.59; 4. Aniketh Visai (P), 59.56; 5. Richard Ling (C), 59.87; 6. Matt Weiner (P), 1:00.10; 7. Cole Malhoit (C), 1:01.80; 8. Caleb Moraw (C), 1:04.41.

**100 FREESTYLE:** 1. Noah Karson (WM), 50.58; 2. Ryan Heinze (P), 50.69; 3. Daniel Mullen (C), 51.00; 4. Gerard Niermann (C), 51.67; 5. Jack Boczar (P), 53.20; 6. Ethan Byrnes (P), 54.83; 7. Derek Goderis (C), 55.03; 8. Liam Deppong (C), 55.23.

**500 FREESTYLE:** 1. Kevin Taylor (LC), 5:07.73; 2. Nicholas Case (P), 5:14.70; 3. Jacob Forgacs (LF), 5:26.30; 4. Jason Burcicki (JG), 5:33.61; 5. Ethan Nordstrom (LF), 5:34.04; 6. Caleb Moraw (C), 5:42.43; 7. Arthur Aigeltinger (WM), 5:42.68; 8. Logan Kendall (P), 5:43.74.

**200 FREESTYLE RELAY:** 1. Plymouth (Michael Wischer, Jack Boczar, Ryan Heinze, Brandon Burger), 1:31.35; 2. Wayne (Noah Karson, Michael Gibson, Jacob Griffith, Devin Gibson), 1:34.37; 3. Plymouth, 1:37.53; 4. Canton, 1:39.77; 5. Wayne, 1:40.40; 6. Churchill (Kyle Reppenhausen, Dash Dobar, Colin Dillon, Kevin Taylor), 1:42.09.

**100 BACKSTROKE:** 1. Ben Yang (P), 56.48; 2. Tristen Shao (C), 59.57; 3. Ethan Drouillard (WM), 59.65; 4. Aniketh Visai (P), 1:00.19; 5. Kyle Amick (C), 1:01.76; 6. Keegan Kendall (P), 1:02.66; 7. Cory Routen (JG), 1:04.25; 8. Cameron Zinn (P), 1:06.63.

**100 BREASTSTROKE:** 1. Garrett Beauprez (P), 1:05.89; 2. Bronson Knowles (P), 1:05.93; 3. Kyle Reppenhausen (LC), 1:06.09; 4. Richard Ling (C), 1:08.86; 5. Ryan Cossin (LF), 1:10.51; 6. Andrew Liakos (P), 1:10.86; 7. Jack Boczar (P), 1:11.26; 8. Alec McCreadie (LF), 1:11.90.

**400 FREESTYLE RELAY:** 1. Plymouth "A" (Michael Wischer, Ryan Heinze, Ben Yang, Garrett Beauprez), 3:23.13; 2. Plymouth "B" (Matt Weiner, Nicholas Case, Aniketh Visai, Brandon Burger), 3:27.47; 3. Canton, 3:31.77; 4. Wayne (Noah Karson, Devin Gibson, Michael Gibson, Arthur Aigeltinger), 3:33.62; 5. Franklin (Ethan Nordstrom, Austin Klotz, Ryan Cossin, Jacob Forgacs), 3:43.90; 6. Canton, 3:48.82; 7. Wayne, 3:50.62; 8. Churchill, 3:56.61.

## TRY HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

there. He hopes the youngster he was working with, one of about 60 kids mostly under 10 years of age, will follow suit. "He said that he wants to (keep playing)," Willer noted. "I look forward to seeing him."

**Taking him back**  
Driscoll, a sophomore, talked about helping out a 6-year-old kid named Mark, who "is a really good kid, he just loves having fun, he was laughing all the time." "He wasn't asking me a bunch of questions but I was asking him a bunch of questions," Driscoll said. "I asked him when he started learning how to skate. He said when he was about 5 years old. ... I did learn to skate here when I was little, when I was about 5 years old."

Looking back a decade or so ago to when he was the young hockey student working with a Salem mentor, Driscoll grinned. "It was a great experience," he said, adding that it helped him get hooked on the sport. "All those players, the one player I was with, I forgot his name, he always encouraged me, he said if I wanted to play hockey I should do it."

The "Try Hockey for Free" event was part of the eighth annual Hockey Weekend Across America program, presented by CCM. There were over 300 local hockey associations across the United States taking part, providing limited equipment for the kids to use.

Helping the Salem varsity at PCC were players from the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins varsity girls hockey team and youth league players on the Plymouth Stingrays.

Salem's prep team (the junior varsity) also participated in the event held at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton. Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said he and his players relish the chance to help youngsters as they come out to dabble in skating, passing and shooting. "It's really a great opportunity, we've been part of three of them now," Ossenmacher said. "We talked to the players before going on the ice. It sounds like a lot of pressure, but this might be that moment where that kid decides whether he wants to play hockey or not. "Because, they come out, they get their equipment, they get to go on the ice and see if it's something they

enjoy. Our players do a phenomenal job out there with it."

**Gauging interest**  
Ossenmacher stressed that it is important for kids and their parents to find out whether or not to go forward with hockey — which requires a substantial financial commitment. "It's all about getting interested," he continued. "Is this something you want to do? Because hockey is an investment."

Willer and Driscoll weren't the only Salem players who were thrilled to participate. "It was fun seeing the little kids out there learning how to play hockey, maybe someday they'll want to play," noted senior forward Richie Corso, who actually played his first game of the season (and scored a goal) several hours after the community event. Corso had been sidelined since last summer after injuring a knee. Like his teammates, Corso said being out on the ice helping youngsters get the hang of the sport takes him back. "It reminds me of when I started playing."

Concurring were senior forward Liam Walker and senior defenseman Noah Saad. "At one point in our life kids helped us out," Walker said. "So we just give back to the community. We were just happy we could help other kids get the experience of playing hockey, skating. Some will like it, some won't."

Walker added that the 7-year-old kid he was paired up with "skated a couple times but never played a game or shot on a goalie. Hopefully, he'll get an opportunity one day."

"It's nice to be able to come help the community, because you never know," Saad said. "This is the first experience for some kids, so you could make or break it. "He just turned five. He was still learning how to skate. At first, when he came on the ice he had to use a cone. And then as the hour went on he got away from the cone and we got to passing. He developed quick, it doesn't take much."

**PLYMOUTH 4, FTON UNIFIED 1:** On Wednesday at Farmington Hills Ice Arena, Plymouth senior goalie Jared Madlock stopped 12 of 13 shots to lift the Wildcats (14-7-3). Spearheading the Plymouth offense was senior forward Josh Smith, with two goals and an assist. Linemates Alex Bump (goal, assist) and Andrew Jossey (two assists) helped the cause, as did Ricky Covault (goal).

**PLYMOUTH 1, STEVENSON 1:** Forward Josh Smith's 10th of the season was all the Wildcats could muster Feb. 20 against Livonia Stevenson. Making 12 saves was Plymouth goalie Erik Vandenbosch.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

BOYS HOCKEY

## CC sews up Catholic League hockey title

Shamrocks down OLSM for third time this season

Chalk up another Catholic League boys hockey championship for Novi Detroit Catholic Central. The Shamrocks notched their seventh since 2005 with a convincing 7-1 victory Feb. 21 over host Orchard Lake St. Mary's. CC, which defeated the Eagles for the third time this season, improved to 18-5-1 overall to repeat as league champion. The Shamrocks jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period on a goal by Nick Macari from Blake Veri at 8:19, followed by J.P. Lafferty's goal from Brendan Cleary at 7:40. St. Mary's (8-13) tallied its lone goal with 2:37 left in the first period, when Jacob Killian scored on a power play from Vince Marino and Joey

Verkerke. It was all Shamrocks from that point as Evan Rochowiak scored on a power play from Macari at 4:09, followed by Ryan Burnett's goal from JoJo Mancinelli at 6:34 to make it 4-1 after two periods. CC then scored three more times in the final period — Andrew Spiegel from Owen Kipke at 2:23; Kipke from Kyle Mulka on a power play at 6:41; and Brian Kearns from Spiegel and Alex Kreutzer at 8:07. Shamrocks goaltender Spencer Wright stopped 18-of-19 shots, while Brendan Earls had 31 saves for the Eagles.

**DETROIT CC 5, WARREN DLS 0:** Junior forward Kyle Mulka scored a pair of goals and had one assist, lifting top-ranked Novi Detroit Catholic Central to a Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League crossover victory Feb.

18 over Warren DeLaSalle at Mount Clemens Arena. The Shamrocks jumped out to a 3-0 first-period advantage and added two more goals in the second to secure the victory. JoJo Mancinelli opened the scoring at 2:02 of the opening period off assists from Alex Smith and Mitch Ossowski, followed by Ryan Burnett's power-play goal from Mancinelli and Andrew Lane at 3:45. Mulka notched his first of the game from Macari and Evan Rochowiak with just 1:14 remaining in the first to make it 3-0. Mulka scored again on a power play from Macari at 11:40 of the second, and Macari made it 5-0 at 14:19 of the same period, assisted by Smith and Mulka. Goaltender Spencer Wright made 17 saves to post the shut-out for CC. Josh Wilk made 38 saves for the Pilots (9-12, 2-9).

## Time flies when juggling baby, housework, career

Mom is tired. It's almost 8 p.m. and little girl is fast asleep. Mom has tried to move her from the co-sleeper to the pack-n-play or the crib, but little girl is not having it. I think she likes the feel of being in a big, cushy bed, all cozy and wrapped up. She has her own sleeping space, but from her vantage point the whole bed belongs to her — at least until she falls asleep and Mama puts her in the crib.



Sarah Davies  
THEN THERE WERE TWO

Mom has just enough time to change into her PJs after her first day back to work, at a new career she had been eyeing for years. She worked hard to get there, but leaving again to go back to work when little girl is only four months old is heart-aching. She tries to decide if a shower, *The Bachelor*, or a glass of wine is best fitting to celebrate day one on the job, but she settles for a cuddle with baby and a little computer time.

### Forever housework

The house has already become chaos. There is never an empty sink, with always one or more bottles and a handful of dishes to be cleaned. Mom tries hard to get the dishes done and the house cleaned and keep baby fed and entertained, but sometimes baby girl limits household tasks to five minutes at a time, leaving something ALWAYS undone. She can't even crawl, but has so much stuff it's unreal. There are literally boxes of clothes she has grown out of, stacked against the walls. One day, Mom will find the time to sort through them and sell or donate them.

There's ice on the steps out front. Mom found out it was slippery, and thought about finding the time to shovel the ice away, but today didn't stand a chance. She could go out now, after 8 p.m. when it's below zero outside, but instead she opts to stay in where it's warm and attempt to get other household chores done. The steps will stay slippery tonight.

Trash pickup is Friday. Sometimes Mom makes it out in time, but there certainly are weeks where the trash doesn't make it to the curb in time, or when the moment Mom brings the cans back up to the garage, she realizes she didn't empty any of the cans inside. When it's laundry day, which feels like every day, Mama does her best to get the clothes washed, dried, folded and put away. Most of the time we make it through washing and drying, but folding can take days sometimes and putting away doesn't even happen every time. But I see nothing wrong with taking clean clothes directly out of the laundry basket and putting them on. If you can keep the momentum up, you might even get away with giving up your dresser!

### Feeling exhausted

I laugh at some moms who, four months after their first baby is born, are walking six miles a day and are down less than their before-baby weight. I have no idea how they do it. I am mostly always exhausted, trying to decide between 20 things that need to get done and 20 more minutes of sleep.

I'm juggling a new career while trying to stay on top of my daughter's upbringing and keeping my house in good shape, while also maintaining friendships and getting rest when needed. I may not have it all together; I may forget things or leave the house in a half-way organized, chaotic mess. But I will pick spending one moment cuddling my daughter over washing some silverware any day. The only advice that stays consistent is "treasure these moments, they go so fast."

Sarah Davies of Livonia writes about the ups and downs of single motherhood.



Barb McGraw (left), Ninette Soares, Eleanor Smith, Gene Tatro and Carl Linlbauer rehearse "The Upper Room" at St. Priscilla Catholic Church in Livonia. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

# Livonia church revamps Passion play into trilogy, one-man show

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Parishioners at St. Priscilla Catholic Church will bring the Easter story alive March 7 without putting its central character on stage.

*A Passion Trilogy*, a nontraditional Passion play in three vignettes, tells an account of Jesus Christ's betrayal, death and resurrection through the eyes of bystanders, friends and an investigative reporter, using contemporary language and even some humor.

"The thing I really like is how Jesus is mentioned in the pieces but we don't have the character of Jesus in it. He is the subject that binds everything together, but it's how we all react to what is happening. It's all the people around him ... exploring their characters, how they react to the events that are unfolding," said Patsy Girnys, one of the 26 parishioners in the play and its costumer. "The characters are at times comedic, there is a quirkiness about some of the characters. There is some lightheartedness about it, with a serious overtone about what's going on."

"I just think that's a unique way of looking at it. It's an awesome piece to work with."

*Betrayal*, the first vignette, looks at Judas after Jesus' arrest and considers what might have driven him to suicide. In *The Upper Room*, women who served at the Last Supper, talk about Jesus as they clear the table and then react to the news of his crucifixion. The final part, *The Empty Tomb*, considers alternatives to resurrection as an investigative reporter for the Jerusalem Star interviews witnesses in the hopes of uncovering a hoax. A printed copy of the 12-page newspaper, with stories of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion, a point-counterpoint editorial, sports pages, letters to the editor column, advertisements and other features, will be available to attendees.

*A Passion Trilogy* is at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at the church, 19120 Purlingbrook, Livonia. Admission is free, although free will offerings will be accepted.

John Dzwonkowski, director of religious education at St. Priscilla, wrote the play and presents it under the auspices of Scripture on Stage, the movie and drama ministry he founded 20 years ago.

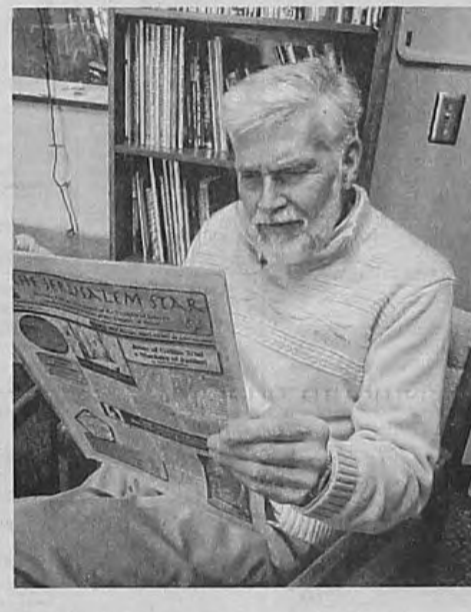
"If people have been away from the study of Jesus, from prayer or from their church for awhile, I might request they stop in, take a look at this," he said. "It's much more theater, but it tells a very good story in a very human way about the stuff that you thought was only pious. It's actually a very human story."

### One-man show

Dzwonkowski also will perform a two-act, 90-minute, one-man show, *An Evening with Simon Peter*, 6:30 p.m. Friday,



Patsy Girnys measures fabric for a cape at St. Priscilla Catholic Church in Livonia. Girnys is making costumes as well as acting in an upcoming theatrical production.



John Dzwonkowski, director of religious education at St. Priscilla Catholic Church, reads the Jerusalem Star, a spoof newspaper with stories and advertisements from the first century. The paper will be offered free to attendees at the church's upcoming theatrical production, "A Passion Trilogy."

March 13, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon, and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at St. Priscilla. Free will offerings will be collected at both events.

In the one-man show, Dzwonkowski portrays the apostle Peter, who recalls the life of his good friend, Jesus. Dzwonkowski first performed the piece 20 years ago and has continued to tweak the script and his performance throughout the years.

"The first program I ever did was awful. I looked like Santa Claus. I had this beard and wig on. I couldn't remember the script. Two weeks later, I did it for St. Mary's in Wayne and I was OK," said Dzwonkowski, who enjoys walking through Heritage Park in Farmington Hills, 58-page script in hand, as he memorizes revisions in his monologue.

"I change it every year. I constantly research it and now for the last 10 years I've gotten standing ovations. I'm so gratified. I listen to what people respond to. If something falls flat, I adjust it."

Adjustments have included adding personal experiences into the script. A portion of Peter's monologue about soldiers and the panicked apostles mirrors Dzwonkowski's own reaction during a mission trip to El Salvador while he was studying for the priesthood with the Maryknoll Fathers. He spent 18 months in the politically volatile country during the late 1970s.

"There was a state of siege going on," he said. "One guy, a Maryknoll priest, had been shot down. I remember sleeping for two weeks in my tennis shoes. I was a good runner. I thought I could out-dis-

tance anybody. If I went four miles, which I could do, I could get to the nun's convent and find some help."

He remembers waking up in a panic one night to the sound of soldiers outside the church.

"I had my shoes on and the pastor woke up. We both came out of our bedrooms. They stopped in front of our place and we thought, well, this is it. And then they continued on. They were on patrol."

### At seminary

The one-man show originally was planned as part of a master's degree project with two other seminarians.

"It didn't pan out, but I always kept it in the back of my mind."

Dzwonkowski left seminary studies to marry and raise a family — he has two sons, a daughter and two grandchildren — and eventually started his own writing and editing business. He began combining his love of theater — he performed in an "off-off-Broadway" production of *Godspell* during seminary — with his faith and created Scripture on Stage Ministries.

"There are many people for whom Scripture as it is written isn't relevant. It doesn't go deep enough into the person of the historical Jesus," he said.

He hopes his trilogy and one-man play will help "bring Jesus alive" for the audience. He also plans to write a series of vignettes this Christmas for the stage.

Visit St. Priscilla's website at [saint-priscilla.org](http://saint-priscilla.org); 248-476-4700

## GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com).

### Livonia Garden Club

Chris Lipinski, a Master Gardener, environmental consultant and co-chair of the Birds, Bees & Butterflies Committee, will talk about

raising bees for pollination, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Lipinski also will identify the native plants that attract friendly pollinators, Mason bees. Visitors are welcome; [livoniagardenclub.org](http://livoniagardenclub.org)

### Northville, Novi

Ed Blondin, a Master Gardener with horticultural training from Michigan State University, will talk about Persian gardens, 7 p.m. Monday, March 9, in Media Forum Room 198C, at Novi High School, 24062 Taft, at 10 Mile, Novi. Blondin will be the guest

speaker at the monthly meeting of the Gardeners of Northville & Novi (The No-No's), which will start with a social mixer at 6:30 p.m. Park in the staff parking lot and enter via door 43. Visitors pay \$5; [gardenersnorthville-novi.org](http://gardenersnorthville-novi.org)

# Humane Society of Huron Valley seeks 2015 spokesdog

The Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) is searching for a dog to lead its annual Walk & Wag fundraising walk on May 16 in Washtenaw County.

Candidates for the shelter's 2015 "spokesdog" must have been adopted from HSHV and be "super-friendly in public and very happy to meet people and other dogs" said Wendy Welch, marketing director.

Enter the competition with a short essay on the special merits of your dog, along with a photo and email to joy@hshv.org. Deadline for entries is Monday, March 9.

Welch said HSHV has crowned an annual spokesdog for the past eight years. Winners not only lead Walk & Wag but are featured in posters, brochures, newsletters and on the Internet.

Casper, 7, a hound-pit bull mix, is the current spokesdog. He and a canine pal were left at the shelter together. His friend quickly found a new home, but Casper's cancer diagnosis made him more difficult to adopt.

Welch said he was at the shelter for about a month before he was adopted. Most animals stay about seven days. HSHV adopted out 4,164 animals last year. Of those, 1,519 were dogs. Welch said the organization has not included cats in the competition because the winner must lead the May fundraising walk.

"We're considering adding an Internet cat sensation," she added.

**Ready to laugh**  
Guardian Angel Animal Rescue holds its comedy fundraiser 8 p.m. March 26, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. The event, for age 21 and over, will include the comedy show, raffle baskets, and a 50/50 drawing. Twenty percent of all pizza and appetizer sales during the show will go to the Rescue.

Tickets are \$15. Call Sandy at 734-788-6857 or Pete at 734-716-8743. —By Sharon Dargay



Submitted

Casper is the 2014 spokesdog for the Humane Society of Huron Valley, (HSHV). The shelter seeks an HSHV alum to serve as this year's top dog.

# Initiative helps fund U-M mental health peer support group

Seeing clothing in the colors of maize and blue pretty much evokes synergy with the University of Michigan. Seeing maize and blue with the tag line "Because life happens" might not. But the students involved with the Wolverine Network hope to change that.

"Emily (Lustig), Bobby (Dishell) and I saw a huge area for improvement for mental wellness on campus. We think that having peer-to-peer support is very important," said Cooper Charlton, University of Michigan Student Athletic Advisory Committee president.

The Wolverine Network was launched Jan. 22 on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. On Feb. 5, friends and mothers Diane Orley and Linda Aikens, both of Bloomfield Hills, brought more than 250 people together at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham to launch the George Orley Mental Wellness Initiative in memory of Orley's son, George, who committed suicide at age 20, when he was a student at the



Julie Yolles

Kenny Shecter of Keego Harbor, Mitchell Shecter, a senior at the University of Michigan who was friends with George Orley, and Farmington Hills resident Sandy Shecter attend the launch of the George Orley Mental Wellness Initiative.

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See YOLLES, Page B7

# Guide to Employment

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Waste removal firm looking for truck mechanic/pm. Full benefits. Accepting Applications Mon-Fri. 8-5  
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### Help Wanted - General

**Maintenance**  
National Apartment Management Company seeks to fill a full-time Maintenance Position in Westland. Knowledge in plumbing, electrical, carpentry & HVAC required. Candidates must possess strong organizational and communication skills. Pay commensurate with experience. Apartment provided. Send resume to: **EDWARD ROSE & SONS**  
HR Dept.  
P.O. Box 2011  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303  
Email: hrdept@edwardrose.com

### MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

**Lincolnshire**  
Lincolnshire Village Apartments is currently seeking an exp'd Full-Time Maintenance Supervisor. The candidate must be exp'd in unit turns, basic plumbing & have the ability to lead others. Proficient technical skills required but are not limited to: carpentry, appliances, plumbing, electrical, & drywall repair. HVAC certification is req. Qualified candidates fax resume: 989-953-4830  
KMG Prestige is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Full Time position, 52 wks/yr. Resumes accepted through March 9, 2015. Email to: smitt@gardencityschools.com Call 734-762-6306

### MECHANICAL ENGINEER

O&K Technology Mechanical Inc. seeks Mechanical Engineer to read and interpret blueprint, technical drawing, schematics, and computer generated reports. Req'd Bachelor's in Engineering. Send resume to job location 30700 Telegraph Rd. Suite 2656 Bingham Farms, MI 48025

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### SENIOR PRODUCT ENGINEER

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### VETERINARIAN

Preventive, diagnostic services and treatment of diseased and injured pets; perform elective and non-elective surgery on small pets including orthopedics; educate and advise clients on pet health. DVM degree, Michigan veterinarian license; 2 yr. exp., will accept foreign equivalent degree of first professional degree in veterinary science. Job at Canton Animal Hospital, Canton, MI. Written applications to Ajab Dhalwani, DVM, 706 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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### Help Wanted - Office Clerical

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
For a busy private family practice office in South Lyon. Prior medical and management experience required. **Family Docs**  
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Full-Time at Michigan Healthcare Professionals. Perform payroll processing & track benefits accurately and timely. Have general knowledge of deductions and payroll taxes. Capable of working with confidential personal files. General math skills & data entry exp. are req. Resume & cover letter to: dhurren@mhpdactor.com Visit us at: www.mhpdactor.com

### RECEPTIONIST

Part-time Administrative duties. Experience preferred. Email resume to: carolynt@mbloomfield.com

### SECRETARY, PT

34 hrs for outpatient clinic in Livonia. (M, W, R: 2:30-8:30; T: 12:00-8:30; A: Fri. Sat. 8:30-5p). Behavioral health or medical exp. desired. Strong customer relations, computer skills. RESUME: jgreed@opcmil.net or fax to: (734) 522-0280

### Help Wanted - Dental

### Dental Assistant

Full-Time In Livonia/Dearborn offices. Pay to commensurate with experience. Experience only need apply. Call: (313) 565-3131

### Dental Assistant

Progressive dental manager w/ several Wayne City locations. See full ad CareerBuilder.com Keyword 2475016

### Help Wanted - Medical

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### Help Wanted - Medical

### FRONT DESK & MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Full-Time For busy 6 doctor office in Livonia. Experience required. Email resume to: levanoficm@gmail.com yahoo.com

### BOOKKEEPER/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Well organized full-time Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant. Payroll, bank reconciliation, accounts payable & receivable, necessary tax reports. Additional administrative duties include answering incoming orders, releasing phone, mail, filing, and other duties as assigned. Detailed organizational skills and multi-tasking. Working knowledge of QuickBooks Pro, Access, Excel, Word and Outlook. Send Cover letter, resume and salary requirements to **ROCK!**  
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Clinical Resource Manager RN with 1-3 years of experience to coordinate the development and completion of the resident assessments (MDS) within the community. AANAC Certification preferred.

### Medical Assistant

For podiatry office in Livonia & Royal Oak. Good pay. Previous experience needed. Looking for energetic, hard working, motivated individual. Call for interview: 734-261-3400

### Medical Assistant, FT

W. Bloomfield internal medical office. Benefits. resume: dman@millenniummedicalgroup.org

### MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Exp. req'd for busy OB-GYN practice W. Bloomfield area. Email: mw101@gmail.com

### MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST

Full-Time position for busy medical office in West Bloomfield. Experience helpful. Fax resume Attn: Andrea 248-851-0421

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Or email resume to: hrcaretelbrighton@gmail.com

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Or email resume to: hrcaretelbrighton@gmail.com

### Help Wanted - Medical

**RN TELEPHONE TRIAGE**  
Rapidly expanding GI practice seeking experienced RN. Responsibilities will include safe and accurate telephone assessment, patient in-take, electronic charting, infusions and a variety of other duties. Strong computer skills preferred. Full and part-time positions available. Please email resume and cover letter: jobs@huronastro.com

### NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR

Westfield/Hyden  
A 101 bed facility located in Milford, MI, has an opportunity for an experienced Nursing Home Administrator. General Qualifications include: Current Michigan License, ability to demonstrate skills and experience related to financial management, planning, quality improvement, and regulatory knowledge. The successful candidate will join an experienced interdisciplinary team. A comprehensive benefit package is offered. Please send resume in confidence to: adminposition@peplinskigroup.com

**POLISH DANCERS PRESENT DEBUTANTES AT ANNUAL BALL**

The Polish National Alliance Centennial Dancers recently held its debutante ball. The Plymouth-based Polish folk dance school holds classes at Madonna University in Livonia for students in preschool through high school. It presents its high school graduates at a formal and elegant presentation ball to family and friends each year. The debutantes this year wore white flowing dresses and the escorts were outfitted in tuxedos and white gloves. The students danced to classical music, including a Polonaise, which is a welcoming dance used to open all formal occasions in Poland, and a lively yet graceful waltz.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Debutantes at the Polish National Alliance Centennial Dancers ball are Hanna Grove (seated left), escorted by Darek Hausz; Kristen Karwan, escorted by Mateus Pelic; Emily Fradette, escorted by Andrew Pietrzak; Kailyn Delonis, escorted by Robert Hausz; Alexis Dolecki, escorted by Dewid Dechnik. Female dancers in the back row are assistant choreographer, Marie Stawasz (left) Katie Grytzelius, Krystyna Kitlinski, Elena Wioncek, Olivia Dunn, Kimberley Beier, Rachel Dudek and choreographer Natalia Jedruszko.



Debutantes and their escorts have fun dancing the night away.

The ball is a modern tradition based on coming out parties that Polish nobility held for their young daughters and sons. After the presentations and dinner, guests were entertained by the Coachmen, a local dance

band that plays a variety of music, from polkas to modern tunes. The Polish National Alliance Centennial Dancers is celebrating its 35th year. Dancers perform at the Liberty Fest in Canton, the Plymouth Fall Festival, and at other local events. For information about joining the group, or to have the Polish Centennial dancers at an event, contact Barb Martin at barbjm52@hotmail.com.

**BIRTH**



SUBMITTED

Julia Nicolette Kramer

**JULIA NICOLETTE KRAMER**

Julia Nicolette Kramer was born Jan. 21, 2015, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia. She joins her parents, Joel and Katie Kramer, and sister, Madeline Rose, 3, at home in Livonia. Proud grandparents are Katherine and Richard Brown of Livonia and Dennis and Diane Kramer of Troy.

**GARDEN**

Continued from Page B5

**Mushroom hunters**

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

**Holiday Nature Preserve**

Celebrate spring with a guided walk noon Saturday, March 21, starting at the preserve's Hix entrance on Hix Road, north of Warren Road, in Westland. Free.

**Educational conference**

Tickets are available for the Master Gardener of Oakland County third annual Educational Garden Conference, "Gardening and All That Jazz - Innovation and Sustainability For Your Garden." Early bird tickets are \$70, \$80 after March 14. The event runs 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. April 25 at the Oakland Schools Conference Center, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. It will include a garden market, presentations by Will Allen, CEO of Growing Power; Matthew Benson, photographer, writer and organic farmer; and Kerry Ann Mendez, who teaches low-maintenance perennial gardening. Pay online or download a form for mailing. Visit mgsoc.org.

**YOLLES**

Continued from Page B6

University of Michigan. With suicide being the second leading cause of death in college, the Initiative was established to help fund the Wolverine Support Network which is run by trained student facilitators and offers peer-to-peer support groups across campus. "George and I became friends during freshman orientation. He was always the life of the party," said Charlton, a junior at U-M. "We started the Wolverine Network so that everyone would have the ability to come to an environment where they felt safe." More than 200 students have met each week in small group settings since the program started. "Our first goal is to start the conversation and shatter the stigma of mental illness," said Aikens, whose two children have suffered from depression. "No one should be ashamed or suffer alone." To donate to the Wolverine Support Network, go to www.umichwsgn.org.

Contact Julie Yolles, Social Scene columnist, at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-642-9465.

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**BARTON, HENRY (SCOTT) R.**

January 2, 1929 - February 22, 2015. U.S. Veteran. Age 86 of Farmington Hills, MI. Beloved son of Margaret and Henry. Scott was raised with his sister Isabelle in Hillside, New Jersey. Married to Grace Caroline in 1949, and fathered four children: Bruce, Joyce, Henry, and Heather. Served two tours of duty in the Navy during the Korean War. Studied at Seton Hall and Lawrence Institute of Technology. Career took him to Detroit in 1960, later becoming an engineer at Ford Motor Company. Active in the St. Andrews Society, the Masonic Temple Farmington Lodge and YMCA. A grandfather of four; Moria, Rose, Leah, and Ken, whom he enjoyed immensely and embarked on many an adventure to Tiger Stadium, Cedar Point, New Jersey and Thanksgiving Day parades. A true Scotsman. So proud of his parents and his Scottish heritage. Scott was endowed with a keen intelligence, quick wit and sense of humor. Always the life of the party. He loved books and crossword puzzles, the New York Times in particular. Later in his career he embraced computers and Internet fearlessly. A world of knowledge at his fingertips. Scott will always be remembered and cherished for his even keel thru life's turbulent waters. Our stoic Rock of Gibraltar. By the way, yes, Scott was a klutz. But no. We will not honor his wish to place "oops!" on his tombstone as he requested! After an eight year battle, Scott succumbed to Alzheimer's Disease. Ta-Ta the noo, Pop! Tribute/Memorial Donations to Alzheimer's Association http://www.alz.org/join\_the\_cause\_donate.asp



**BURTON, MARGARET M.**

Progressed peacefully, surrounded by family, on December 18, 2014. She made her home in Floyd, Virginia with her youngest, son Michael and his son, Rhone, who she helped raise. She was in the loving care of her daughter, Peggy in Arizona at the time of her death. Born in 1931 (Dearborn) to Norman and Alice Durocher, she graduated from Fordson High in 1949 and married Leo Burton, her high school sweetheart, in 1950. The couple welcomed six children providing a nurturing and loving household. Marge is survived by her children, Steve (Kelly), Terry (Diane), Ann Harmon (Dave), Peggy Streetman (James), and Michael; and her sisters, Doris Esper and Rita Grignon; grandchildren, Christine Sudut, Lindsay Sudut, David Burton, Mathew Burton, Derrick Burton, Jillian Burton, Jessica Burton, and Rhone Burton. She leaves many friends, inspired and influenced through the happiness she brought to their lives. Marge left joy in everyone's heart with her infectious smile, enthusiasm and accepting spirit. Marge was happiest in her gardens. She created many in her life including a beautiful space in the mountains of SW Virginia she tended well into her 80s. A memorial celebration will be held on May 31, 2015 at Whispering Pines in Pinckney. The family invites all who wish to celebrate Marge's life to RSVP to mikeburton745@gmail.com or to express condolences to the family.



**DUKE, MICHELE THERESE**

Born November 22, 1953. Died at Serenity House Hospice in Santa Barbara, California with a harpist playing at her side February 16, 2015. Michele was born in Birmingham, Michigan to Norman and Lee Duke. She attended Seaholm High School and then went on to complete nursing school at Oakland Community College. She became a registered nurse and worked in Oncology and Orthopedics at St. Joseph Hospital for several years. She then followed her passion and changed gears and opened a high end clothing store (Brava) in downtown Birmingham with her mother. They operated their store for many years with automotive, celebrity and sports clientele. Upon her diagnosis with cancer, she and her mother moved from Michigan to California to be with family. Michele loved; her Catholic faith, cooking, gardening, and animals (especially her dog Gigi). Michele is survived by her mother Lee, brother Darryl (Marlene), brother Dorian (Debbie), niece Colleen (Antwan); nephews, Kelly (Cheryl), Justin (Angie), Brandon (Allison), Chris, Aaron. Step sister Marianne; step brothers, Tim (Robin), Ron (Patsy), Bill and Dan (Diane). Michele is preceded in death by her father Norm Duke and step father Richard Hallagan. The family would like to thank Beaumont Hospital Rose Cancer Center and Serenity House Hospice in Santa Barbara, CA.



**HENNESSEY, Virginia Brophy "Sissy"**

Passed away on February 16, 2015 at the age of 91 in Vero Beach, Florida, with family at her side. Sissy was born Virginia Katherine Ward on September 2, 1923, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Harry T. Ward Sr. and Virginia K. Smith. When Sissy was young the family moved to Detroit where she graduated from Cooley High School. She went on to Michigan State University, graduated with a degree in Social Work and later taught Home Economics at Columbus Elementary School in Detroit. Sissy married Rex L. Brophy in 1948 and they shared 52 years of loving marriage before his death in February of 2000. Sissy and Rex resided in Grosse Pointe Shores for many years, and later in Grosse Pointe Farms. In the 1970's they discovered the allure of John's Island. For years they spent part of every winter there enjoying golf and the company of many wonderful friends. Sissy and Rex moved to John's Island permanently in the late 1990's. After Rex died, Sissy met the second love of her life, Matthew Joseph Hennessey. Sissy and Matt shared a love of world travel and a wonderful marriage for 10 years before Matt's death in 2011. Sissy enjoyed skiing, golf, travel and especially people. She nurtured many life-long friendships. Known for her warmth, caring attention to friends, sharp wit and easy sense of humor, Sissy was loved for the manner in which she lit up a room. She was a member of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, the Detroit Golf Club, the Otsego Ski Club, the John's Island Golf Club and the Bent Pine Golf Club. Sissy was a devoted wife, sister, aunt and great-aunt to her extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Harry T. Ward Jr. and husbands Rex Brophy and Matt Hennessey. Sissy is survived by sister-in-law Carol Ward; brother and sister-in-law, James and Margaret Brophy; seven nieces and nephews; and 16 great nieces and nephews. Services were held in Vero Beach on Friday. A private funeral Mass with the family will be celebrated later. Donations in Sissy's memory may be sent to Holy Cross Catholic Church, 500 Iris Ln., Vero Beach, FL 32963. Arrangements are under the direction of Strunk Funeral Home, Vero Beach. A guestbook is available online at www.strunkfuneralhome.com



**PROVENCHER, REAL "RAY"**

Age 91, was gathered into God's arms on Thursday, February 26, 2015 after a short, valiant battle with cancer. His devotion to his family and his firm belief in God supported him in his struggle and ultimately gave him peace. Real is survived by his daughters, Melodie and Robin Provencher; and his granddaughter, Elizabeth Sarlauskas. He is preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn; and his daughter, Mary "Connie". Real was born on September 17, 1923 in Canada. He arrived in Michigan with his family while still a baby and grew up in Detroit with his five sisters and brothers, all who preceded him in death. He was drafted into the army in 1943. While in the army, during WWII, he became a naturalized citizen. Upon returning to civilian life, he was a successful businessman, owning his own construction business for over 55 years. Ray was a great family man and a loving father. He will be missed by all whose lives he touched. The family will celebrate his life on Saturday, March 7, 2015 with visitation from 1-8 p.m. and a memorial ceremony with military honors at 7:00 p.m. at the R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home located at 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia MI. Memorial contributions may be directed to Angela Hospice. Please share a memory at www.rggharris.com.



**COOPER, MADELYN**

Madelyn was born on November 9th, 2009 and was granted her angel wings on February 12th, 2015. Jesus called her home to heal her body and give her peace. Her final days were spent surrounded by family and friends that Madelyn had touched throughout her short, yet very memorable life. She is now with her sister Sophia. With such a giant heart-warming smile, she taught us the importance of humility and dignity. Madelyn was the daughter of MSgt Jason and Carolyn (Kos) Cooper of Westland MI. She is survived by her siblings, Bethany and Chris Rogers, Timothy, Haley, Samantha, and Maxwell. She is also survived by her grandparents William and Louise Caram, and Terry Cooper. She joined her grandparents, Ray and Lynn Kos in heaven. Like her sister, Madelyn also gave us a lifetime of love during her short time on earth. We were blessed to have had so much wonderful time with her.



**DUNBAR, JANE AUTUMN (LEWIS)**

82, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away peacefully February 18, 2015. Receded in death by her parents, Annette and Richard Lewis of Massapequa, New York. Survived by loving husband, Russell Raymond Dunbar; daughters, Autumn Elizabeth (John) Sousanis, Amy Louise (Owen) Busch, and Antonia Saint (Obed Cepeda) Dunbar; and ten grandchildren. Jane grew up in Brooklyn and Massapequa, NY, earned her BA from Pratt Institute and ME from Columbia University. An art teacher for 13 years in Detroit before establishing her family in Farmington Hills, where she was delighted to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a mother. A wonderful mother, natural teacher, passionate supporter of the arts and music, and co-founder of a graphic design business with Russell. We will dearly miss our Janie. A true creative spirit and artist, Jane was always creating, from painting, drawing, and designing the yearly Christmas card, to canning, baking, calligraphy, and crochet. Jane always showed an interest in others and was fond of presenting both friends and strangers with seashells inscribed with inspirational words or drawings that she would carefully pen. She received a lifetime recognition award from the Michigan State Fair in 2008. She also enjoyed swimming at the Farmington Hills YMCA, operating a booth at the Pontiac Flea Market, and working with children at the Farmington Hills KinderCare and Woodcreek Elementary School. A Memorial Service in Jane's honor will be held at the Grand Court, 36550 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI on March 7 from 3-4 p.m. with a musical prelude at 2 p.m. performed by the Chelsea Quartet.

**BLENMAN, ELIZABETH "BETTY"**

February 26, 2015 at 99 years of age. Formerly of Bloomfield Hills she had resided at Canterbury on the lake, Waterford for the past 19 years. Betty is survived by two nieces; Margie Nichols of Minnesota and Nancy Roll of Rochester Hills; two nephews; Martin Cole of MN and Frank Blenman of Florida and two grandnephews, Andrew Cole and Adam Cole. She is preceded in death by her sister in law Margaret Cole of MN. Betty graduated from the University of Minnesota where she was a member of Kappa Delta Society. She was a longtime member of Chapter AW of the PEO Sisterhood, Member of the Sashabaw Plains Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a life member of the American Association of University Women and a member of the first Presbyterian Church of Birmingham since 1947. In addition to her club activities, Betty enjoyed playing bridge, reading and visiting with friends. Clarence and Betty enjoyed travel and made many trips around the world. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to COATS FUNERAL HOME-WATERFORD. To send a condolence visit www.CoatsFuneralHome.com

**BOWDEN, PATRICIA BIEN**

Of Bloomfield Hills died on February 24. Patricia was the beloved wife of the late George Bowden, and infant daughter Pam. She was a loving mother to Trish (Rick) Worden, Jeff, Lynne (Patrick) Quigley and Rick. Proud grandmother of 13 and great grandmother of eight. Patricia was a native Michigander, she met George while they were both working at Hudson's in Detroit. Patricia was an active member of the Village Women's Club. Her appreciation of living life and wonderful spirit were loved by all.



**Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.**



**May you find comfort in family and friends**

## Farmington spa gives massages to parents at Children's Hospital

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Brandi Ellis knows what it's like to care for an ailing family member.

"My father got a much-needed kidney transplant. I was at the hospital every other day. We've been doing that through December and January," she said "In February it lightened up and we finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. He takes over 60 pills a day. I'm putting his medication together and he takes shots throughout the day. My mom is in the process of having a knee replacement, at the end of March."

Even while juggling family health issues, two children under age 3 and a business, Ellis knew she wanted to give back to the community.

The Southfield resident and owner of Bellis Therapeutic Spa in downtown Farmington, figured massage was the perfect vehicle to help others and

she knew exactly who needed her stress-relief services.

"I can sympathize with parents," said Ellis, who offered to give free chair massages and facials to parents of youngsters at Children's Hospital of Michigan. She and three staff members worked with more than 30 parents and grandparents Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Detroit hospital.

"It was really nice. Those parents felt so special," she said, adding that the hospital also provided refreshments and gift bags for the parents. "They were so friendly and excited for us to come out with our services."

"There were two (parents) who said they had been at the hospital for a couple months. They were really in need of stress relief. One lady had her child in surgery," Ellis said. "And she was sitting there with her daughter in a stroller. They (hospital staff) held the baby while the mother went in and got a massage."



Brandi Ellis at her spa in downtown Farmington.

For some, it was their first massage. One woman said she had been sleeping on a cot at the hospital for three days after her daughter was admitted for complications with Crohn's disease.

"It was my first time having

a massage and facial. They both were great," she said.

### Hands-on business

Ellis, who has a master's degree in organizational management, took a massage class while in college for fun. She

said it changed her life, compelling her to take additional classes, to become a licensed esthetician and massage therapist and to open her own business.

"A lot of time, business owners don't know how to do the services. I work right with my staff," she said.

She said the name of her company reflects the idea that spa services are therapeutic and can be part of a lifestyle change.

"One hour of massage is equal to seven hours of sleep," she said.

Ellis hopes to work with Children's Hospital of Michigan again, possibly at the winter holidays.

In the meantime, she hopes to find a service project in Farmington, in addition to the free chair massages the spa provides during Founders Festival.

For more about Bellis Spa, visit bellisspa.com.

## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### Blood drive

» 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 2, Providence Hospital Fisher Center Auditorium, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield. Sign up at redcrossblood.org and enter the code, PROVSFLD or call Abbie at 248-849-3067

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

### Breastfeeding clinic

Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, offers a class for new moms who need assistance nursing their babies, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, March 9. Partici-

pants will get a chance to examine various products and supplies. Cost is \$35. Register for Breastfeeding Basics at 248-888-2500 or botsford.org/forms/payment/maternity/index.html.

### Breather's Club

The free, educational resource and support system for anyone touched by COPD, runs 6-7:30 p.m. March 3 in the Oakwood Cardiac Rehab Center, 22060 Beech, Dearborn. For more information, call Darlene Lingenfelter, 313-562-4132.

### Childbirth Class

Learn about the stages of labor, managing discomfort, relaxation and breathing methods, the partner's role in labor and delivery, medications and anesthesia, C-Section deliveries and more, 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, at Botsford

Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Cost is \$75. Register by phone, 248-888-2500, or online, www.botsford.org/forms/payment/maternity/index.html.

### Diabetes management

» St. Mary Mercy Livonia will present a free six-week workshop for adults with diabetes, 1-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4-April 8, at the Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile, Redford. The workshop, called, Diabetes PATH (Personal Approach Toward Health), will teach participants to handle the challenges of diabetes, manage symptoms and communicate more effectively with physicians and family members. Participants will develop weekly action plans, share experiences and help others solve problems encountered during their self-management program. Register

with the library at 313-531-5960, Ext. 103.

### Mental health

Botsford Hospital's new support group, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, or NAMI, will meet 7-9 p.m. March 5 — and will continue meeting the first and third Thursday of the month — in Classroom A/B, Zieger Building, 28050 Grand River, Farmington Hills. The free NAMI Metro Connection Support Group is for people living with mental illness. They can learn from each others' experiences, share coping strategies and offer encouragement and understanding. A trained volunteer facilitates. The open format allows participants to feel some degree of anonymity and to participate as much as they are comfortable. Questions? Call Nikki at 248-752-3381.

### Nutrition class

» Learn tips to identify how much you should eat and how to tame bad habits, 6-7 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills. Led by a dietitian from Botsford Hospital. Cost is \$5. Register by calling or visiting the Guest Service Counter at the store. 248-427-7400.

» Cooking Matters for Diabetes, presented by Oakwood Healthcare, provides specialized recipes and information for adults living with diabetes and their caregivers. The six-week course, which begins 2-4 p.m. April 13, at Maplewood Manor Apartments, 15270 Plaza South Drive, Taylor, is free and includes all groceries and cookbooks. To register, visit Oakwood.org under the Classes & Events tab or call 800-543-9355.

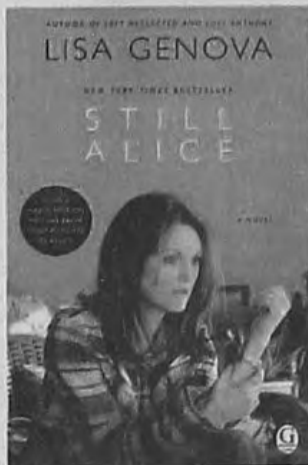
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## SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Customer service and 12 related jobs



make paying their overdue bills easier. Listening to the debtor and paying attention to his or her concerns can help the collector negotiate a solution.

**2. Police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers**, also called 9-1-1 operators or public safety telecommunications, answer emergency and nonemergency calls. Dispatchers must stay calm while collecting vital information from callers to determine the severity of a situation and the location of those who need help. They then give the appropriate first-responder agencies information about the call. Dispatchers keep detailed records about the calls that they take. They use computers to log important facts, such as the nature of the incident and the name and location of the caller.

**3. Receptionists** perform administrative tasks, such as answering phones, receiving visitors and providing general information about their organization to the public and customers. Receptionists are often the first employee of an organization to have contact with a customer or client. They are responsible for making a good first impression for the organization, which can affect the organization's success.

**4. Social and human service assistants** help people get through difficult times or get additional support. They help other workers, such as social workers, and they help clients find benefits or community services. They may follow up with clients to ensure that they are receiving the services and that the services are meeting their needs.

**5. Training and development specialists** create, administer and deliver training programs

for businesses and organizations. To do this, they must first assess the needs of an organization. Once those needs are determined, specialists develop custom training programs that take place in a classroom, computer laboratory, or training facility.

**6. Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors** advise people who suffer from alcoholism, drug addiction, eating disorders or other behavioral problems. They provide treatment and support to help the client recover from addiction or modify problem behaviors. Furthermore, they help clients rebuild professional relationships and, if necessary, reestablish their career. They also help clients improve their personal relationships and find ways to discuss their addiction or other problem with family and friends.

**7. Probation officers and correctional treatment specialists** work with offenders who are given probation instead of jail time, who are still in prison, or who have been released from prison. They work with and monitor offenders to prevent them from committing new crimes, and create rehabilitation plans for them to follow when they are no longer in prison.

**8. Computer network support specialists**, also called technical support specialists, usually work in their organization's IT department. They help IT staff analyze, troubleshoot and evaluate computer network problems. They play an important role in the daily upkeep of their organization's networks by finding solutions to problems as they occur. Solving an IT problem in a timely manner is important because organiza-

tions depend on their computer systems.

**9. Waiters and waitresses** take orders and serve food and beverages to customers in dining establishments. They are responsible for ensuring that customers have a satisfying dining experience. The specific duties of servers vary considerably with the establishment in which they work.

**10. Public relations specialists** create and maintain a favorable public image for the organization they represent. They design media releases to shape public perception of their organization and to increase awareness of its work and goals. They also respond to information requests from the media and help clients communicate effectively with the public.

**11. Wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives** sell goods for wholesalers or manufacturers to businesses, government agencies and other organizations. They contact customers, explain product features, answer any questions that their customers may have and negotiate prices.

**12. Retail sales workers** include both those who sell retail merchandise, such as clothing, furniture and cars, (called retail salespersons) and those who sell spare and replacement parts and equipment, especially car parts (called parts salespersons). Both types of workers help customers find the products they want and process customers' payments.

\*All job titles and descriptions are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook.

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In a world where every customer interaction is caught on camera, video, microphone or social media, it takes a special group of people to work in customer service. Rarely do they hear from satisfied customers who enjoy the products and services that company offers; instead, customer service workers tend to interact with those who have a problem.

But that gives workers in customer service a very special set of skills that can be used in a variety of other occupations. Every organization wants its users, clients and customers to have a good experience and continue to buy from them. And those workers who are able to change a disgruntled customer's mind or help solve a problem hold a unique set of skills that can be used in a variety of other occupations.

Read on to learn about the skills workers in customer service hold and the related jobs you can consider applying those skills in.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics notes what skills workers need to perform their jobs exceptionally. For workers in customer

service and the following related positions, here are the skills you'll need:

- Communication skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Listening skills
- Patience
- Problem-solving skills
- Ability to multitask
- Decision-making skills
- Empathy
- Organizational skills
- Compassion
- Time-management skills
- Analytical skills
- Instructional skills
- Speaking skills
- Critical-thinking skills
- Emotional stability
- Writing skills
- Detail-oriented
- Self-confidence
- Stamina

To apply those skills, consider any of these 12 jobs that demand exceptional customer service:

**1. Bill and account collectors\*** try to recover payment on overdue bills. They negotiate repayment plans with debtors and help them find solutions to

### SEEKING: Multi-Media Sales Representative

The Observer & Eccentric, part of michigan.com, a Gannett Company, is seeking a Multi-Media Sales Representative for our Milford/Highland/White Lake territory who will be responsible for developing relationships and consulting with clients while providing an opportunity to contribute to the long-term success of a high growth and progressive company. Our ideal candidate will be an innovative, result driven, high energy, creative sales representative with the ability to think strategically and to assist clients by developing strategic, multi-media advertising campaigns.

Must be able to manage multiple priorities, requests, programs and be dedicated to exceptional customer service. Develop new business and grow market share by using a variety of customer centric sales programs and audience solutions. Make solid marketing presentations that sell the value, provide customer centric audience solutions and close the sale.

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# Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Famous Khan
  - 4 Camp furnishing
  - 7 Rum-soaked cake
  - 11 Living room seat
  - 13 —-Wan Kenobi
  - 14 Online auction
  - 15 London stroller
  - 16 Conch
  - 18 Nice-looking
  - 20 Kind of coverage
  - 21 Ms. Arthur
  - 22 Note before la
  - 23 Argue earnestly
  - 26 So what? (2 wds.)
  - 30 Leia's rescuer
  - 31 Cowpoke's sweetie
  - 32 Woody ex
  - 33 Like table salt
  - 36 Exactly vertical
  - 38 Comic-book thud

- 39 Susan of "L.A. Law"
- 40 Mercator's tome
- 43 Prime-time series
- 46 Soft leathers
- 48 Plunder
- 50 — vera lotion
- 51 Natural resin
- 52 One of the Guthries
- 53 Fix
- 54 I, to Claudius
- 55 Movie-lot locale

- DOWN**
- 1 Deadly snake
  - 2 Trail mix
  - 3 Long way off
  - 4 — Rica
  - 5 Follow orders
  - 6 — Maria (coffee liqueur)
  - 7 Gazed upon
  - 8 Retired
  - 9 Romantic island

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

T	A	E	L	T	D	B	R	A	T		
S	E	E	M	I	O	U	E	E	L	S	
W	A	R	M	E	D	U	P	S	N	I	P
I	L	I	A	D	R	E	P	O	T		
T	S	E	G	E	E	S	E	A	K	C	
		D	E	R	R		O	L	E	O	
H	O	A	R	D	S	J	E	T	S	A	M
I	N	N	S		P	U	N	T			
E	O	N	T	H	E	T	A	D	I	M	
		E	R	N	I	E	C	A	R	T	E
J	A	X	A	P	R	O	T	R	A	C	T
A	H	E	M	P	E	R	A	C	H	E	
R	A	S	P	O	D	D	B	O	Y		

8-24-12 © 2012 UFS, Dist. by Univ. Uclick for UFS

- 10 Jean Auel heroine
- 12 Microscopic animal
- 17 EPA concern

- 19 Williams or Turner
- 22 RSVP word
- 23 — Beta Kappa
- 24 Philosopher —-tzu
- 25 Finale
- 26 Michael Jackson megahit
- 27 Outback bird
- 28 Purpose
- 29 Frankenstein milieu
- 31 Topaz or emerald
- 34 Lowered in esteem
- 35 Small job
- 36 Kitty
- 37 Spandex fiber
- 39 Nightclub
- 40 "Bonanza" brother
- 41 Decorated tinware
- 42 Boxer — Spinks
- 43 Hitch in plans
- 44 Galley slaves' need
- 45 Denver's altitude
- 47 Seine vista
- 49 Period

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11			12		13				14		
15				16				17			
	18			19				20			
		21				22					
23	24	25			26			27	28	29	
30					31				32		
33			34	35				36	37		
			38					39			
40	41	42			43				44	45	
46					47				48		49
50					51				52		
53					54				55		

Want more puzzles?  
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## SUDOKU

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

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## CARDIAC WORD SEARCH

**WORDS**

- ABDOMEN
- ALVEOLI
- ANGINA
- AORTA
- ARRHYTHMIA
- ARTERY
- ASPIRIN
- BACTERIA
- BLOOD PRESSURE
- BRADYCARDIA
- BRUIT
- BYPASS
- CARDIAC
- CARDIOLOGIST
- CARDIOTID
- CATHETERIZATION
- CHOLESTEROL
- CONGENITAL
- DIURETIC
- DOPPLER
- DYSPNEA
- ENDOCARDIUM
- EXERCISE
- FAILURE
- FIBRILLATION
- HOMOCYSTEINE
- HYPERTENSION
- INFARCT
- LIPID
- LUMEN
- NITROGLYCERIN
- PLATELETS
- SHOCK
- SHUNT
- THROMBOLYSIS
- VASCULAR

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

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

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**

**Sudoku**

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

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**

**Word Search**

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

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# Car Report

## Cadillac Marketing Campaign, and CT6, Aim To Shatter Status Quo in Luxury-Vehicle Market



By Dale Buss

entrepreneurial and even iconoclastic attitudes over a

Cadillac unveiled its long-awaited new TV commercials during The Oscars telecast on Sunday evening, elaborating on its new "Dare Greatly" positioning by highlighting the bold accomplishments of five very different achieving individuals and then draping their unapologetic,

Njeri Rionge, the Kenyan entrepreneur who founded the leading internet-service provider that brought the web to Africa; Richard Linklater, the American film director and screenwriter whose most celebrated work, *Boyhood*, also was his most recent; and Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple.

The music "sets an emotional atmosphere," Uwe Ellinghaus, Cadillac's chief marketing officer, told me. "It's music that is big." And if the roster of featured individuals, he said, risks

87th Annual Academy Awards on ABC comprised a big moment for the General Motors luxury brand, whose US sales fell by more than 6 percent last year and whose marque had become indistinct and lackluster as German rivals, especially, have come to occupy the pole position in the minds of American luxury consumers.

Cadillac executives desperately want to change that, especially among the new generation of premium customers who have crusty remembrances of Cadillac—or don't think of the brand at all.

So the first ad ended, "How dare a 112-year-old carmaker resurrect itself?" It also includes footage of the soon-to-be-revealed new Cadillac high-end sedan, CT6, prowling New York City. The car, the initial model in a planned \$12-billion flurry of new hardware for Cadillac over the next several years, is to be unveiled at the New York International Auto Show in a few weeks.

For now, then, Cadillac's focus is squarely on reshaping its brand. "The advertising industry always wants to talk about target groups," Ellinghaus said. "But at the very end, I want everyone to change their perception of Cadillac. I don't care about demographics. It's a campaign about an attitude.

"We wanted to break through the clutter with executions, not simple product shots, and play with the interactions between people and cars," he explained. "You can't imagine the

German brands doing something like this, because [the Cadillac campaign] is more human-driven and less technology-



The new marketing theme for Cadillac: "Dare Greatly."

driven."

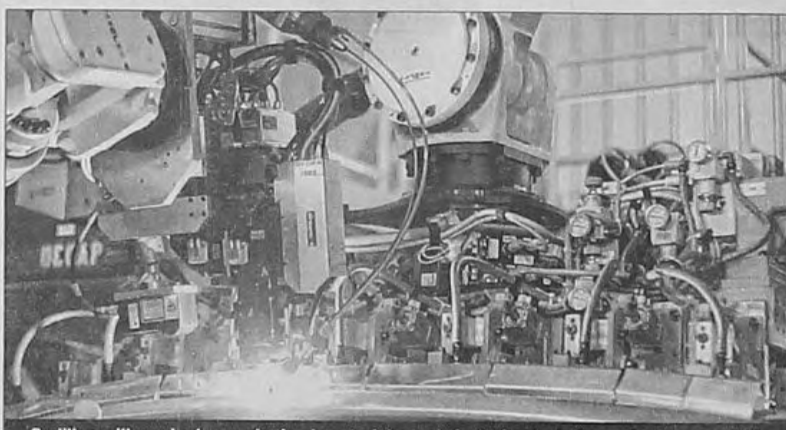
Speaking of the humans, Ellinghaus explained, in the first ad "we did not simply want to feature people that were successful, but rather game-changers, who did not accept the status quo of their businesses and challenged conventions, just as we at Cadillac want to challenge the conventions in automotive luxury." The brand also sought to "challenge the perception that the focus of our communication are the typical white males you find in automotive advertising all the time."

Cadillac's YouTube teaser video last week also was misinterpreted by some pundits. They reacted to it as if all Cadillac planned to do in its new campaign was depict New York street scenes and tie its new attitude to that of President Theodore Roosevelt, whose 1910 speech was quoted at length in the video and excerpted in outdoor advertising that the brand erected recently in a handful of major US Cities.

In fact, the new ads are helping cement Cadillac's new association with Gotham. Overall, Ellinghaus said, the move to Manhattan and the new advertisements are partly about enlarging Cadillac's appeal beyond its stronghold in the American heartland to the coasts, where New York and Los Angeles remain the nation's largest luxury-car markets, and where German and Japanese luxury brands largely hold sway now.

Cadillac CEO Johan de Nysschen came out in the last several days to endorse explicitly the approach that Ellinghaus is taking and the importance of resurrecting the Cadillac brand as well as adding some worthy new products. "Cadillac is on a mission to shatter the status quo," he said on his Facebook page.

And interestingly, Ellinghaus said, for the "Dare Greatly" ad, "all of the protagonists [in the ad] wanted to help resurrect Cadillac ... There's a lot of goodwill for Cadillac in this country."



Cadillac will use advanced mixed-materials manufacturing techniques for the new CT-6.

Cadillac brand that is in dire need of resuscitation.

The anthemic first ad for Cadillac was set cinematically against Edith Piaf's iconic "Je Ne Regrette Rien" ("No Regrets") and showcased the accomplishments of five very diverse people who have shaken up their fields: Jason Wu, the Taiwanese-Canadian fashion designer who's most famous for creating dresses for both inaugurals for First Lady Michelle Obama; Anne Wojcicki, co-founder and CEO of the personal-genomics company 23andme;

offending some traditional Caddy customers. "That's exactly what I want. I want people to say, 'Look how much Cadillac' has changed."

Overall, he said, Cadillac's new campaign bows "with more storytelling and emotionalization, more entertainment, not just information."

The trio of Cadillac ads during the

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Audi

Audi

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GMC

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