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SPORTS, B1

## CSX pressed to stop stalled trains

Stabenow arranges talks to solve problem of blocked crossings

**Darrell Clem**

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

After a new round of talks with CSX Corp., local officials are hopeful progress can be made to ease the problem of stalled trains blocking railroad crossings.

"Time will tell," Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said.

His remarks came after U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow's office arranged a Nov. 28 meeting involving officials from Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton, Livonia, Huron Township, CSX and the Federal Railroad Administra-

tion.

The latest developments came as local officials say blocked railroad crossings have delayed public safety response times, prompted some residents to climb between rail cars and caused job applicants to arrive late for interviews. The problem reached new heights in October, when a train blocked traffic for nine hours in Plymouth — a situation CSX has since blamed on a computer malfunction.

"This has been a long-standing problem for Wayne County residents that demands a long-term solution," said

See TRAINS, Page A3



CSX has indicated it is taking steps to ease the problem of blocked railroad crossings. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Cecilia Coffey came out to the Compassionate Friends candle lighting in memory of her son Joe, who died in July.

## Candlelight vigil honors lost loved ones



Friends and family come out to remember loved ones who died too soon at the candle lighting Sunday in Plymouth. TOM BEAUDOIN

**Brad Kadrich**

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

For 13 years, Linda Grandinscak has attended the Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil honoring children who've died too young to honor her nephew.

This year, Grandinscak, a Novi resident, had a tragic new reason to attend: Her daughter, Nichole Christensen, died last Christmas Eve after a battle against cancer.

So Grandinscak was there Sunday, lighting a candle and honoring both her nephew and, now, her daughter.

"We've been coming for years," Grandinscak said. "It's a small thing we can do for our children."

She was in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth for the annual vigil, where hundreds of people lit candles, heard several musical tributes and listened as the names of nearly 800 children were read by leaders of The Compassionate Friends Livonia Chapter.

The candlelight vigil was one of many that took place at the same time around the world, the concept being that a worldwide band of light is

See VIGIL, Page A2

## Washburn signs new three-year pact with Michigan Philharmonic

The Michigan Philharmonic has signed a three-year contract extension with music director and conductor Nan Washburn. Now in her 19th season with the Michigan Philharmonic, Washburn has led the organization's evolution into one of the most innovative and dynamic professional symphony orchestras in the region since her arrival in 1999.

The winner of The American Prize in Orchestral Conducting, professional division, in 2013 and 18 ASCAP Awards

for Adventurous Programming from the League of American Orchestras, Washburn is one of the most innovative conductors working in the U.S. today. For her engaging performances and leading-edge approach to concert programming, critics have hailed her work as having "perspicacity, verve, imagination and all-around savvy." Under her



Washburn

direction, the Michigan Philharmonic has garnered national awards and recognition, winning six ASCAP awards from the League of American Orchestras, as well as first place in the prestigious American Prize for professional orchestras in 2016.

Before being recruited to Michigan from California, Washburn served as artistic director and conductor of the West Hollywood Orchestra for five years and music director of Orchestra

Sonoma, the Camellia Symphony and the San Francisco State University Symphony Orchestra.

Washburn first came to national attention as a co-founder, artistic director and associate conductor of the San Francisco-based Women's Philharmonic from 1980-90, during which time she became one of the leading authorities on and advocates for orchestral works of

See WASHBURN, Page A3



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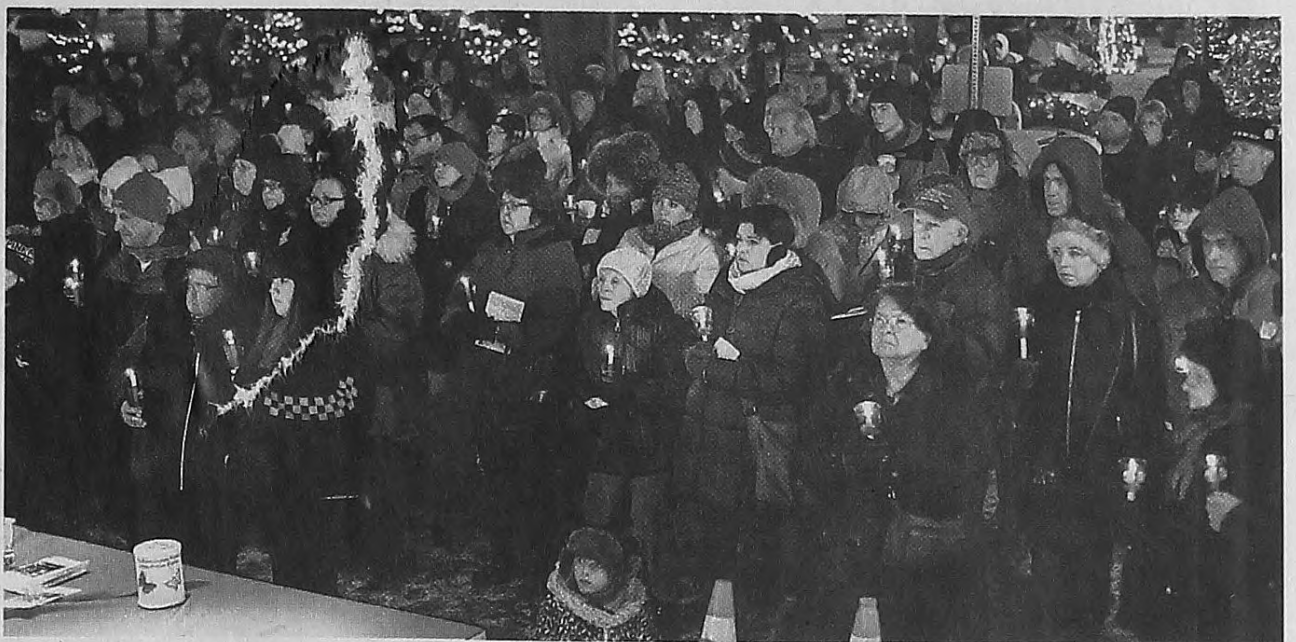
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Hundreds of friends, family and loved ones came out for The Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil Sunday in Kellogg Park. TOM BEAUDOIN

**VIGIL**

Continued from Page A1

formed in tribute to the children.

The event also featured a couple of Christmas trees in the park, decorated with ornaments as a further tribute to the children lost.

Danielle Varnas lost her brother, Joel Tefft, seven years ago. Sunday, she was in Kellogg Park to honor him. But Joel wasn't the only reason she was there.

"I want to support everyone else who has lost a loved one," Varnas said. "It's important for me to come, to honor the others and to honor my brother's memory. He would like that."

Rhonda Temple of Dearborn Heights serves as treasurer of The Compassionate Friends Livonia Chapter and took the lead on organizing this year's ceremony.

Temple lost her daughter, 6-year-old

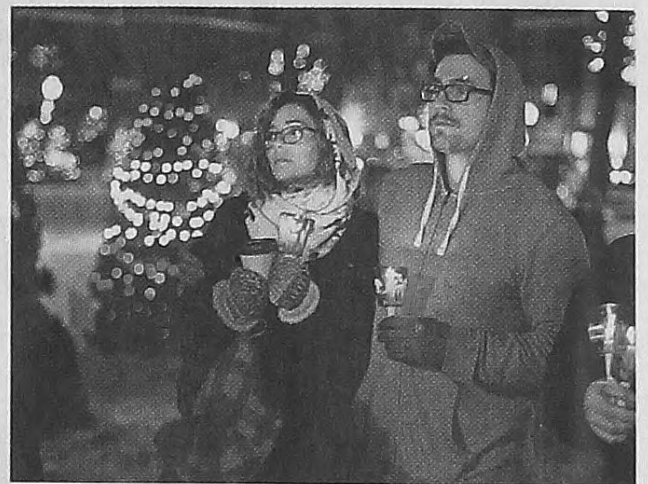
Alyssa, to leukemia in July 2006. She's been coming to the vigil ever since. She said the event serves as a salve for the emotional wounds suffered by families who've lost children.

It's presence as a precursor to the Christmas holidays serves as solace for those who are grieving.

"It allows the community to come out to honor our children, our grandchildren and our siblings," Temple said. "The holidays are difficult, it's Christmas-time and all that joy is out there. Sometimes, we just can't find the joy."

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Vickie Jensen of Redford looks for son Sean Denny's ornament on one of the trees that were part of The Compassionate Friends event. TOM BEAUDOIN



Danielle and Brian Varnas remember loved ones at the Compassionate Friends candle lighting held Sunday. TOM BEAUDOIN



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## WASHBURN

Continued from Page A1

women composers. For her pioneering work in this field, Washburn was awarded the WIA – Jeanine C. Rae Award for Advancement of Women's Culture. This award was in recognition for her advancement of women composers by programming more works by women composers than any other orchestra of any size in the U.S.

Washburn has put the Michigan Philharmonic

on the map by working with and performing works by many of the leading composers in the U.S. today, including Joseph Schwantner, William Bolcom, Libby Larsen, John Corigliano, Chen Yi, Lou Harrison, Tobias Picker, Michael Daugherty, Jennifer Higdon, Gabriela Lena Frank, Andre Myers and Michael Gilbertson.

As the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex, which houses the administrative offices of the Michigan Phil and 36 other arts and recreational organizations, plans to

renovate and expand the facility, a new performing arts center is one of the goals of the project.

"Having a performing arts center right in the heart of our hometown of Plymouth would be a dream come true for the Michigan Philharmonic," Washburn said. "It is something we have waited so long for and would be a perfect way to celebrate my two decades with the orchestra."

For more information the Michigan Philharmonic, concert schedules and tickets, go to [www.michiganphil.org](http://www.michiganphil.org).

## TRAINS

Continued from Page A1

Stabenow, who sent representatives from her office to the Nov. 28 talks. "I understand that CSX plays an important role in our state's economy, but it can't be at the expense of public safety. Understandably, residents have had enough."

She said she organized the meeting in an attempt to find long-term solutions, including better communication, advance notice by CSX of impending railroad crossing blockages, investments in infrastructure and pushing CSX "to fix this problem once and for all."

In Canton, Supervisor Pat Williams said the situation already has improved during the last month after CSX installed underground air compressors at three locations. He said it allows the company to separate sections of trains and not block crossings while train braking systems are serviced.

"We went from dozens of calls per week to one phone call during the last month," Williams said

Dec. 7. "We're knocking on wood here in Canton. We appear to be one of the lucky ones in this scenario."

Plymouth has had at least two railroad crossing delays this month.

Sincock has said that, since railroads are federally regulated, state and local governments have no recourse to keep crossings cleared. He said communities once could issue tickets for long-stalled trains, but they lost that option during a court battle.

"We need solutions from Washington," Sincock said.

Local officials are sensitive to CSX's need to serve its customers, but they say it can't come at the expense of public safety.

In response to recent complaints, CSX North Region Superintendent Robert Dales told local officials he has spent "countless hours" in the western Wayne County area to observe the problem and work toward solutions, Sincock said.

As a result, CSX has adjusted some train schedules and installed the underground air compressors in the Plymouth-Canton area. While CSX believes the changes will

help, Sincock said the company acknowledged that lengthy railroad crossing blockages still might occur occasionally due to problems such as computer malfunctions.

Local officials say better communication by CSX of impending blockages would allow communities to better alert residents. CSX has pledged to improve those efforts. Sincock said CSX had been under the impression that its railroad police already had been notifying local law enforcement agencies.

"That never happened," Sincock said.

The talks between CSX and local officials came as Reuters reported that the investigative arm of U.S. Congress intends to look into the safety of increasingly long freight trains operated by CSX, Union Pacific Corp. and other railroads to boost their profits.

The Reuters report said train length is currently unregulated and attempts to change that are expected to encounter opposition by the railroad companies.

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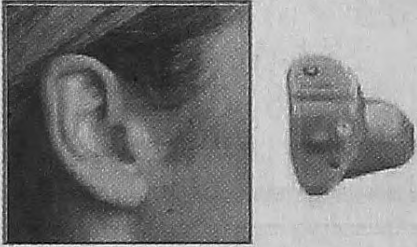
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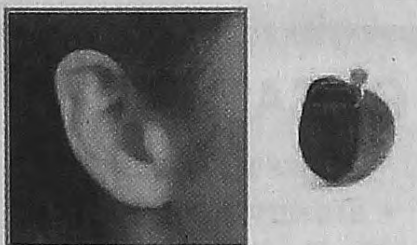
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## Check out these three events this weekend

**David Veselenak**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

School's almost out, the tree's been up for a few weeks — there's definitely a reason to go out and do something fun this weekend.

Check out these three events happening in Detroit's western suburbs this weekend leading up to the end of the year.

**Christmas concert in Livonia**

If you're in the mood to enjoy some holiday music, the Livonia Civic Chorus has just the offering this weekend.

The chorus will showcase its annual holiday concert at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium at Clarenceville High School, 20501 Middlebelt. The concert, titled "Sing We Now of Christmas," features the chorus showcasing various holiday tunes during one of its two annual concerts.

Pre-sale tickets for the show are \$10 for children, students and sen-

iors and \$12 for adults and can be bought at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard. Tickets the day of the show at \$15 for everyone at the door.

For more information, go to [livoniacivicchorus.org](http://livoniacivicchorus.org).

**Jurassic Quest in Novi**

If you need a break from all Christmas all the time, grab the kids and take them this weekend to the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi for Jurassic Quest.

The experience, coming for the first time to the convention center at 46100 Grand River, runs Friday through Sunday and features more than 80 animatronic dinosaurs for attendees to check out.

The event takes place 3-8 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$20 for both children and adults, while seniors are \$18. Children under age 2 are free. VIP tickets are \$34. Additional activities have added costs and parking is \$5.

For more information, go to [suburbancollectionshowplace.com](http://suburbancollectionshowplace.com).

**'A Christmas Carol: The Musical' playing in Plymouth**

If more than a Christmas concert is your liking, Plymouth has a musical of one of the season's most-cherished tales this weekend.

Forever After Productions will perform "A Christmas Carol: The Musical" at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, 650 Church St. The performance tells the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge as he receives visits from three spirits Christmas Eve.

The performance will run all weekend, with shows happening at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in person, via phone at 734-547-5156 or online at [heartforeverafter.org](http://heartforeverafter.org).

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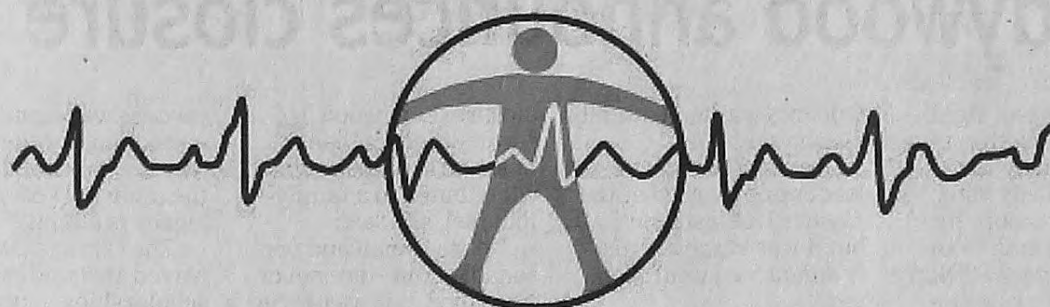
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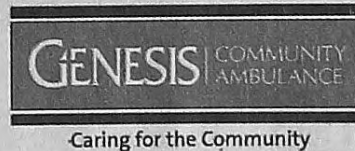
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# Livonia Ladywood announces closure in spring

**Ann Zaniewski**  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ladywood High School, the all-girls Catholic school in Livonia, is closing at the end of this school year because of declining enrollment.

The decision by the Felician Sisters of North America was announced Monday to staff, parents and alumni. Students were notified at assemblies Tuesday.

Enrollment at the school has dropped 60 percent since 2005, according to a letter from Sister M. Alfonsa Van Overberghe, chair of the school's board of trustees. Ladywood has 169 students in grades 9-12. "Despite optimizing

expenditures and significantly reducing the subsidy provided by the Felicians to Ladywood, we could not ignore the enrollment trend," Van Overberghe wrote. "Nor did we want to raise tuition to cost prohibitive levels to maintain our quality education with significantly fewer students, which made the decision unfortunate, but clear."

The school, which is known for its rigorous academics and strong athletic programs, opened in 1950. It has more than 6,000 alumnae. Tuition and fees run about \$11,000 annually.

School spokeswoman Mary Henige said the closure was unexpected. An open house held last month for prospective

students was well-attended, she said.

Henige said school leadership learned of the closure late last month, but it wasn't more broadly announced until Monday.

"I think this was definitely a surprise. ... It's always sad to close a school, especially a ministry in Catholic education," she said.

The Felicians are offering a \$500 annual scholarship to students who go on to attend other Catholic high schools in southeast Michigan. Officials are developing a transition plan for faculty and staff.

Melissa Ayoub Heinen, a pediatrician who graduated from Ladywood in 1992, was devastated to learn about the

closure. Ladywood had fewer students than other all-girls schools, which contributed to a family-like feel, she said.

"It was small and personable. You were never a number. ... It was a true sisterhood," she said.

Van Overberghe wrote in the letter that was sent to parents and alumni that Felician leadership in November evaluated whether Ladywood could have a viable and sustainable future. She noted that the 2008 recession and changing demographics due to low birth rates have hit schools all over the country hard.

"The Felician Sisters sponsor 27 ministries, so we must be good stewards of our resources," she said. "Please know the decision-making

process was heart-wrenching for the sisters, who are saddened that the ministry's 68-year legacy is ending."

The Class of 2017 received \$6.8 million in scholarships — nearly \$100,000 per student, Van Overberghe wrote.

The Rev. Steve Pullis, director of the Department of Evangelization, Catechesis and Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit, said the decision to close a religious order-sponsored school is always difficult for everyone involved.

"The Felician Sisters have sponsored all-girls Catholic secondary education in southeast Michigan since 1882," he said. "Their commitment, their presence and their graduates have contrib-

uted greatly to the Catholic fabric of the Archdiocese of Detroit."

Heinen said in the years since she graduated, a lot of positive things happened at Ladywood, including the expansion of the school and the construction of a new gym.

On the athletics side, Ladywood reached the girls basketball state finals in 1983-85, winning the Class B title in '83 and '85. The school also won the Class A volleyball state title in 1988 and 1989. In softball, the school won the Division 2 state crown in 2012.

On Ladywood's website Monday afternoon, there was still information about how prospective freshmen could apply to attend next year.

# Galloway sentenced to 16-35 years in prison for Hines Park attack

**David Veselenak**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It took the victim who was attacked by Floyd Galloway months before she could leave the house on her own.

But even with the fear of the attack she endured Sept. 4, 2016, in Livonia's Hines Park, she was able to complete the half-marathon she had trained for a month later.

"Because of that attack, I have become even stronger," she said in court Friday morning. "You don't deserve to be on the same Earth as me and my family."

Galloway was formally sentenced Friday by Wayne County Circuit Judge Mark Slavens after taking a plea deal admitting he was the one

who attacked and tried to sexually assault a runner last year. As a result, Galloway, 30, of Berkley will spend 16-35 years in prison.

Galloway pleaded guilty to kidnapping, criminal sexual conduct-assault with intent to commit sexual penetration and assault with intent to great bodily harm less than murder by strangulation late last month. As a result of the plea, a fourth charge, assault with intent to murder, was dropped.

Slavens said the acts Galloway admitted to — grabbing the runner as she traversed through Hines Park, strangling her and attempting to have sex with her — is an act he had no right to attempt.

"You somehow felt entitled to choke this

woman, beat this woman and have sex with her," Slavens said. "The fear she had, I can't imagine."

She said Galloway hasn't changed her outlook on life as she continues to move forward after the traumatic experience.

"You may have ruined my day, but I am not going to let you ruin my life," she said.

The Observer & Eccentric does not name victims of sexual assault.

Galloway was charged in June after Livonia police were able to connect him to the crime through DNA.

He was offered a plea deal in October, one that would have seen him sent to prison for 15-35 years. He originally declined that offer, but changed his mind weeks later. Prosecutors then tacked

on an additional year to the sentence agreement, saying the original deal had expired.

If released from prison, Galloway will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life and was ordered to remain away from the victim.

Galloway declined to make a statement in court Friday.

Danielle Bennetts, the Wayne County assistant prosecutor who tried the case, told Slavens that Galloway will have plenty of time to contemplate his actions in the Michigan Department of Corrections and the victim will have peace of mind that he cannot harm anyone.

"She'll at least know where Floyd Galloway will be for the next 16-35 years," Bennetts said. "Mr. Galloway is a preda-

tor."

## Stislicki connection

Also in the courtroom Friday was not only the victim in this case, but the family of missing Farmington Hills resident Danielle Stislicki. Galloway, who worked in the same office building in Southfield as Stislicki, is a suspect in her disappearance more than a year ago, though he has not been charged with anything in connection with her disappearance.

Danielle's father, Richard Stislicki, said after the hearing that he was relieved she could receive justice in seeing Galloway sent to prison.

He said he was reminded of his daughter's resilience as he heard the victim give her statement Friday.

"It was almost like

Danielle's spirit was in her," he said.

Farmington Hills Police Chief Charles Nebus said about 74 warrants have been issued for searches since Danielle's disappearance and said progress in the case was moving forward.

"We've gotten tips from all over southeastern Michigan," Nebus said. "We continue to conduct searches, including several places the last few weeks."

Ann Stislicki, Danielle mother, said she had a message for Galloway: that she hoped he will have plenty of time to think not only about the victim in this case, but her daughter as well.

"I hope you have time to sit and think about what you did," she said.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com



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## AREA EVENTS

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hometownlife.com. Items must  
be received at least two weeks  
prior to the event.

### Central City's Christmas Broadway Spectacular

"The Most Explosive Christmas Show Around Town," Canton's Christmas Broadway spectacular, is scheduled for seven performances Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 14-17, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Times are at 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and noon and 4 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are \$24 and are on sale at the Village Theater box office or online at [www.CantonVillageTheater.org](http://www.CantonVillageTheater.org). Tickets are reserved seating.

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

### 'Christmas Carol' at the PARC

"A Christmas Carol — The Musical" is being performed at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex, 650 Church Street, Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 14-17, by Forever After Productions.

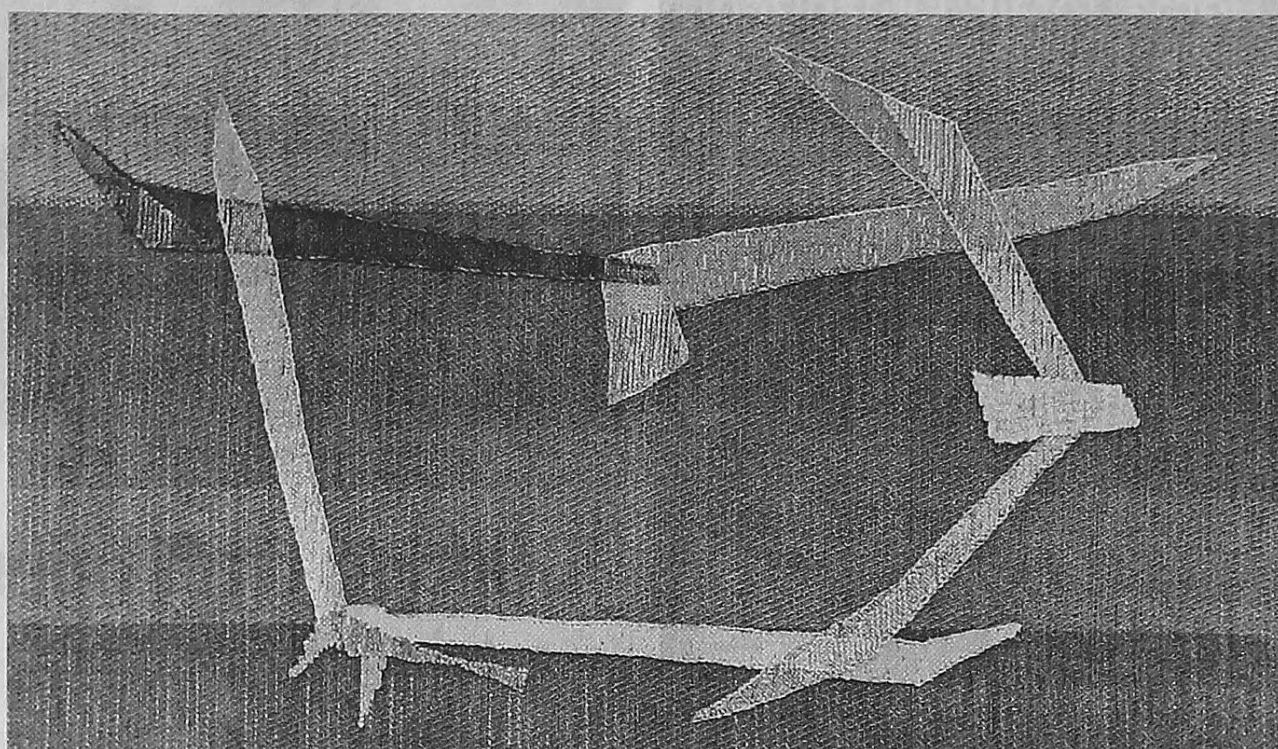
General admission tickets are \$10 and are on sale for all performances, set for 7 p.m. Friday through Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, at [www.iheartforeverafter.com](http://www.iheartforeverafter.com), by calling Shirley at Forever After Productions at 734-547-5156 or at the door. Enter via Door 24 from Adams Street parking lot at rear of building.

Go to [www.iheartforeverafter.com](http://www.iheartforeverafter.com) for additional information.

### 88.1 The Park sponsors 'On the Beat'

Radio station 88.1 The Park will partner with local police departments to give the community a chance to understand how local law enforcement works. Officers have agreed to answer the community's questions on policing and law enforcement on the "On the Beat" program, which will air Monday, Dec. 18.

The station aired the first "On the Beat" in September. Community members submitted questions regarding traffic rules, police responsibilities and more. 88.1 The Park is accepting



A sample of the variety of Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild members' works ("Crossing Paths" by Kathy Zasuwa) on display this month at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

questions for the December program. Questions can cover any topic affecting our local police departments.

88.1 The Park is a local radio station that is owned and operated by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district.

### Mitten Theater presents 'Knife Before Christmas'

The Mitten Theater will host the premiere of "The Knife Before Christmas," an original murder mystery production that runs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15 and 22. The Mitten Theater is located inside of PARC (Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex), 650 Church St.

Tickets are \$45 at [theknifebeforechristmas.brownpapertickets.com](http://theknifebeforechristmas.brownpapertickets.com), but early bird tickets are available for \$40 while supplies last. They will be \$50 at the door. Groups of 10 or more can contact Vince Sabatini at 609-233-0226 or [vince@mitten-theater.com](mailto:vince@mitten-theater.com).

Ticket price includes a strolling hot and cold hors d'oeuvre and dessert buffet. Food may be limited for non-reserved tickets; door ticket prices will be reduced to \$25 in this case. A \$50 prize will be given to the best detective of the night. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Show is rated PG-13. This production is not appropriate for children. Contains coarse language, sexual innuendo, mythical creatures, scenes of violence (including an extended

death scene) and singing. For more information, go to [MittenTheater.com](http://MittenTheater.com).

### Barefoot presents 'Almost, Maine'

The nonprofit Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main St., in Plymouth will present "Almost, Maine" through Dec. 17. Show times are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are \$17 to \$19, with student and senior discounts at [www.justgobarefoot.com](http://www.justgobarefoot.com). For more information, call 734-404-6889, email [admin@justgobarefoot.com](mailto:admin@justgobarefoot.com) or go to [www.justgobarefoot.com](http://www.justgobarefoot.com).

### Village Theater art exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will exhibit the collected works of the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild in the Gallery@VT through Jan. 1, 2018. Works on display include a wide variety of fiber art, such as basketry, beading, bead embroidery, bead weaving, kumihimo, crochet, doll making, dyeing and painting, embroidery, felting, garment design and construction, handmade paper and book art, knitting, knotting, quilting, sewing, spinning, weaving and surface design.

The exhibit is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, during public performances at the theater and by appointment by calling 734-394-5300. The gallery is closed holidays.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at

50400 Cherry Hill Road. For more information, 734-394-5300 or go to [www.cantonvillage-theater.org](http://www.cantonvillage-theater.org).

### Canton library Winter Snow Spree

The Canton Public Library will host a Winter Snow Spree 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19. Carousel Acres will fly over a live reindeer who will visit with us outside and we will offer CPL Express train rides in our front loop, so dress for the weather. After the outdoor activities, come inside and warm up with some hot chocolate, video stories, crafts and more. Enjoy while supplies last. No registration required.

The Canton Public Library is located at 1200 S. Canton Center Road. For more information, go to [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org) or call the library at 734-397-0999.

### Living Nativity at Lake Pointe Bible Church

Lake Pointe Bible Church, 42150 Schoolcraft, in Plymouth invites the community to come to a live Nativity scene 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23. Included will be the babe in swaddling clothes in the manger, young shepherds watching over their flocks of sheep and goats and the wise men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The hallelujah chorus will entertain visitors with song, while a roaring fire will keep them warm. Refreshments will be available during the free, interactive, family

friendly event.

The living Nativity scene will take place in the field in front of the church and will proceed rain or shine. Visitors are advised to dress warmly. Parking is available in the rear lot. Overflow parking is available across the street at the Plymouth Senior Station, 42375 Schoolcraft Road.

### Hats for the Homeless

Plymouth Community United Way is gearing up for the annual Hats for the Homeless drive, scheduled to run through Dec. 29 in an effort to keep our homeless community warm during the winter months. New and handmade items can be dropped at the PCUW office from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Friday.

Should your company or group like to participate by hosting a drive on-site or like to sponsor items like coats or blankets, contact Randi at 734-453-6879, ext. 5. For more information, go to [www.plymouthunitedway.org](http://www.plymouthunitedway.org).

### PARC community forum

The Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex will hold a community forum at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, 2018, at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., in Plymouth. PARC will update the community on its future plans to preserve and re-purpose the historic former Plymouth High/Central Middle School into an arts and

recreation center and add a new Performing Arts Center as well as respond to questions.

Everyone is invited to witness the progress made since its inception and share in the vision for the future. Preliminary designs, site plans and renderings of the facilities will be on display and available for public review.

PARC is a 501(c)(3) public charity. For more information, contact Don Soenen at 734-516-4053 or [dsoenen@gmail.com](mailto:dsoenen@gmail.com).

### Baseline Folk Society

The Baseline Folk Society continues its 13th season at The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, at 774 N. Sheldon Road.

Tickets are \$5 at the door, including performers. Sign-up for open mic starts at 6:15 p.m. and ends at 6:40 p.m. Performances are the third Saturday of each month, September through May.

### Music at the Elks

Blues @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society ([www.detroitbluesociety.org](http://www.detroitbluesociety.org)). There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing shoes.

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

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

### AARP TaxAide looking for volunteers

Every year, AARP provides free income tax preparation services for seniors and other moderate income families from February through April. AARP is looking for new volunteers to become tax counselors. You should know how to use a computer and the internet, and be experienced with income tax preparation.

You can apply by completing an application online at [aarp.foundation.org/taxaide](http://aarp.foundation.org/taxaide) or call 888-227-7669.

## CANTON LIBRARY EVENTS

### Hero Hangout: Comics Reading Group

**When:** 7-8 p.m. third Wednesday of each month

**Details:** Do you love reading comics or learning about super heroes? Join us for Hero Hangout, a comic book club is for ages 7-12, and you choose what to read. Every week we will be sharing, reading and making comics. Participants are encouraged to bring a comic to share with a group, but are not required.

### On the Spot Tech Help

**When:** 5-7 p.m. each Wednesday and noon to 2 p.m. each Saturday

**Details:** A team of tech-savvy volunteers has been assembled at CPL to help you find the answers to those tech issues you can't quite figure out on your own. Whether you need help while working on a project at one of our computers, setting up an email address or downloading an app on your phone, we can help.

### ELL Conversation Groups

**When:** 9:30-11 a.m. each Thursday and Friday

**Details:** Practice speaking English in an informal setting with Community Literacy Council volunteers. See the English Language Learner Program FAQ at [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org) for more information.

### Digital Drop-In Help

**When:** 10-11 a.m. each Friday

**Details:** Stop in to get one-on-one help with your e-readers from the friendly experts at the Information desk. Just bring your device and your desire to learn. Kindle users must bring Amazon log-in information as well.

### Computer Skills Lab for Beginners

**When:** 9-11 a.m. second Saturday of each month

**Details:** If you are looking to build a foundation of strong computer skills, including Internet use and setting up an email account, stop in to CPL's Internet Lab. We will have guided activities for practice with

mouse skills, copying/pasting and more, with trusted experts on hand to answer any questions you may have or connect you to additional resources.

### Family Storytime

**Details:** Family Storytime provides an opportunity for caregivers to actively engage with their children under age 5. Together with a youth librarian, you can build early literacy skills in a welcoming environment through meaningful stories, songs and play. Encourage a love of language and reading while practicing listening and cooperative tasks. Every Family Storytime is followed by a half-hour of ABC Activity Time. Go to [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org) for a full December program schedule.

### Preschool Storytime

**Details:** Preschool storytimes feature longer books, flannel board and rhymes designed for children ages 3½-5. These activities help develop pre-reading and school-readiness skills. Children must be able to sit independently and be attentive for 30 minutes. Parents may attend, if needed, to help transition their child to this program, and all parents must remain in the children's department. Registration is required and you can pick a Monday or a Friday session. Go to [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org) for registration and schedule.

### Baby Storytime

**Details:** Baby Storytime is designed for babies 18 months and younger with an adult and features simple stories, songs and rhymes carefully chosen to build awareness of language and vocabulary, foster a love of books and provide a fun, interactive experience for babies and parents/caregivers. Registration is required. Go to [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org) for registration and schedule.

### Teen Boredom Busters

**Details:** Bored after school? Need a study break? No worries, we've got fun activities in our Teen Space

that are just right for your busy schedule. Stop by for five or 50 minutes, whatever works for you. Learn something new, meet a new friend, or just relieve some stress. Drop in for Origami Lucky Stars 3:30-5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27.

### Air Pollution and Lung Cancer Awareness lecture

**When:** 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16

**Details:** Air pollution is a serious issue that takes place in areas all around the world throughout industrial areas. 7 million premature deaths occur every year due to dangerous matter that is small enough to enter through the lungs. China grants days off from school or work when the particles in the air are so thick that they block light. Parts of India are quite literally covered in dust because of coal and other air pollutants. However, air pollution doesn't just affect countries halfway across the world. It happens locally, too: Michigan suffers from about 275 deaths a year from air pollution caused by cities like Detroit, the Motor City. Join students from the high school Health Occupations Students of America to discuss air pollution and its very disastrous effects.

### Special Needs Storytime

**When:** 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16

**Details:** Please join us for Special Needs Storytime: Count Me In! This is a sensory-friendly storytime filled with stories, songs and sign language especially designed for young children with developmental delays and disabilities.

### Winter Solstice Lantern DIY

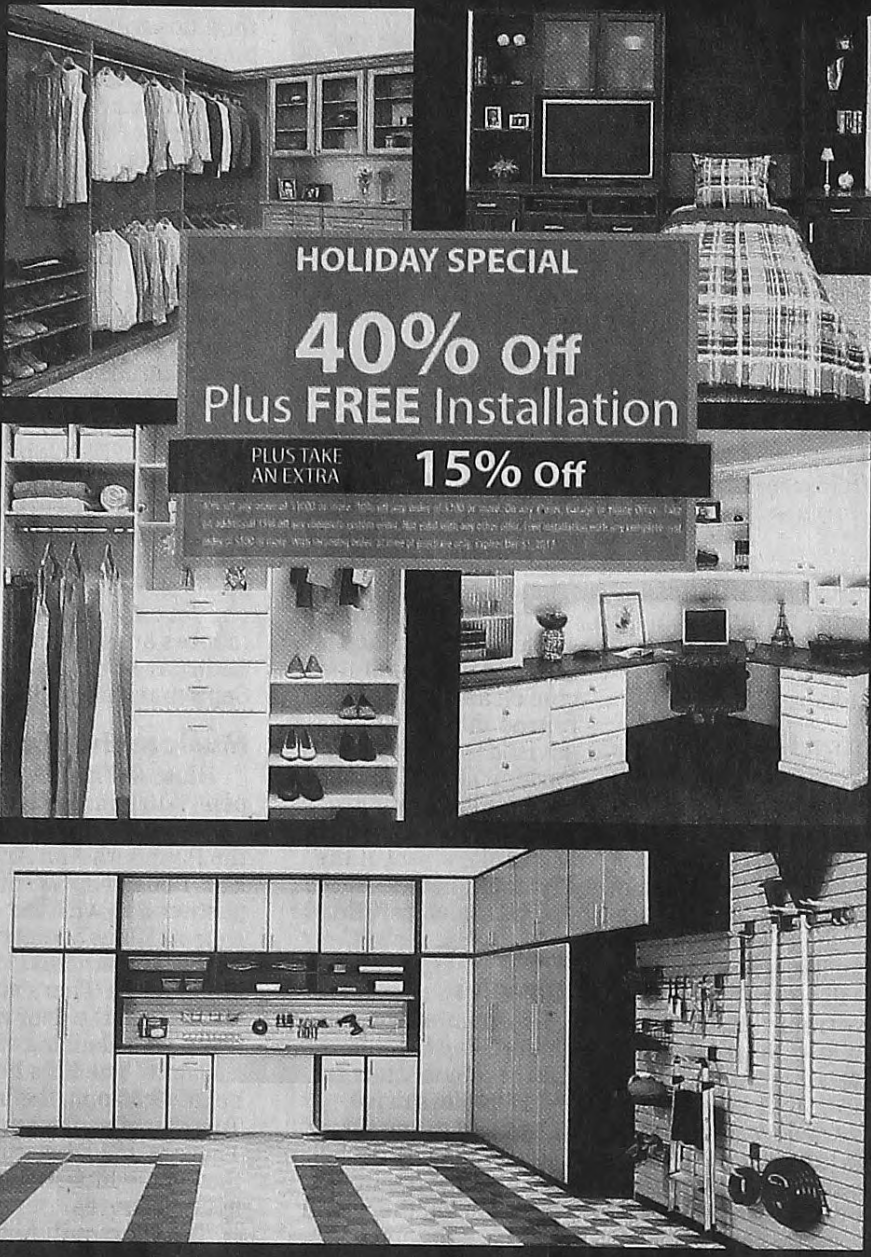
**When:** 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17

**Details:** The winter solstice is Dec. 21 and brings the longest evening of the year. Stop in to learn about winter solstice traditions around the world and make your own lantern to brighten up the dark night. Recommended for ages 9 and up.

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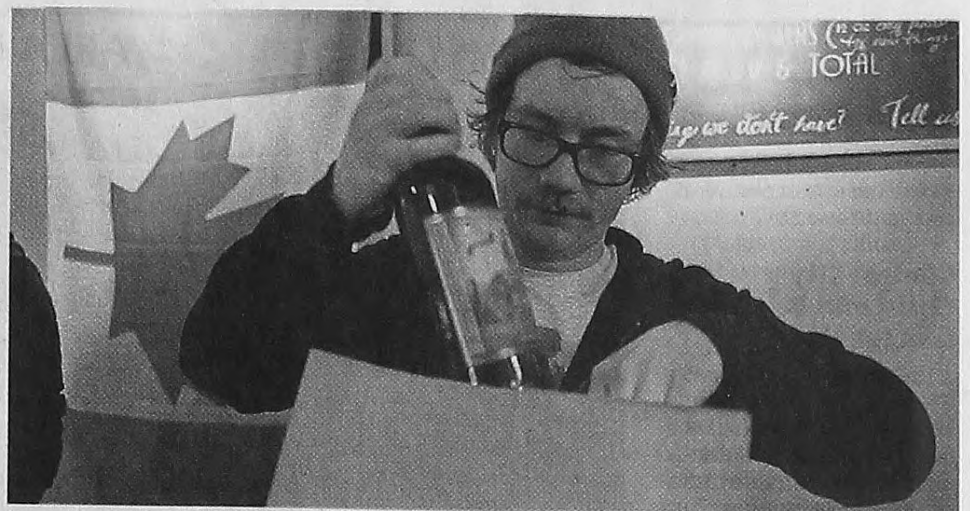
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Justin Daymon prepackages bottles of Founders Canadian Breakfast Stout at 8 Degrees Plato in Ferndale. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Gifting craft beer? Seek advice from local experts

**Dan Dean**  
 hometownlife.com  
 USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Are you having a hard time navigating the often-confusing world of beer as it is now? Can't discern between a stout, session, sour, pilsner or IPA? Have an uncle, nephew, niece, spouse or friend you want to give the gift of beer to and don't know where to

start?

You are not alone. Beer has certainly come a long way since the original Stroh's dominated these parts. But luckily, if you are reading this from the Mitten State of Michigan, you are most certainly as close to great beer as you are to a lake or stream. The new media company Thrillist recently announced Michigan as its fourth best state in the

nation for quality and availability of craft beer.

When I have a beer question, my go-to answer man is Ryan Wiltse, owner of River's Edge Brewing Co. in Milford.

"If you (or they) have a local bottle shop they frequent, go in there and chat with the knowledgeable staff. They may even know your friend or family member and can

See BEER, Page A9

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO STATE LAW 257.252, THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE(S) WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE AT MAYFLOWER AUTO TRANSPORT, 1179 STARKWEATHER RD, PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 48170 ON THE DATE AND TIME LISTED BELOW:

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Maureen Brodie, cmc  
 City Clerk

Published: December 14, 2017

LO-0000335868 3x3

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LO-0100004704-01

# BEER

Continued from Page A8

help you pick something out. There are a lot of passionate, knowledgeable folks out there who are more than happy to help," he wrote in an email.

"In our area, Pine Ridge Market has a great selection and an amazing connoisseur of craft beer and liquor in Levi. He's a real gem and we're lucky to have someone like him in this area to steer folks towards some great stuff and hard to find selections," he wrote. Other options with great reputations include 8 Degrees Plato in Detroit and Ferndale, Beer Baron in Livonia, as well as Holiday Market in Royal Oak.

### Founders CBS

It was a fluke that I arrived at the 8 Degrees Plato Ferndale location just before the 3 p.m. release of its supply of the much-heralded Canadian Breakfast Stout. The bourbon barrel-aged beer with hints of maple syrup from Founders Brewing Co. had not been released in bottles since 2011, said those standing outside this blustery and very cold Wednesday afternoon.

"It's always nice to get someone a hard-to-find or specialty bottle that might cost a little more," Wiltse said. And while many of the shivering masses in line said CBS would be the cat's meow of beer gifts, none I talked to had any intentions of gifting their prized \$25 bottles. Other great specialty options include anything from Speciation Artisan Ales, Wiltse said.

As the last of the diehards purchased their prized bottles, I stood among the rows and rows of beer with Plato co-



Give the gift of craft beer this Christmas. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

owner Tim Costello, who despite the mayhem of the special release, took time out to offer advice on buying the gift of beer.

"Beer is like pizza — there is no such thing as a bad slice," Costello said.

Determining the likes and preferences of the person you are purchasing a gift for helps.

"They should be asking you a lot of questions," Costello said about store staff helping you find that perfect beer gift.

"What kind of flavors do they like? What do you like in a wine? What do you like in a coffee? All those flavors translate into beer in one form or another."

### Personalized six-pack

With the sounds of "Sleigh Ride" playing in the background, we proceeded through the rows, choosing all Michigan-made beers. Based on a series of questions he asked, Costello chose New Holland Brewing Co.'s Extra Time, a session beer, to start things off building the six-pack from light to dark.

Along the way, I told him I was not big a IPA fan, but that I had recently tried and really like the M-43 IPA from Old Nation Brewing Co. in Williamston. In response, a can of Nawl A Cawp, an East Coast IPA from Birmingham's Griffin

Claw Brewing Co., went into the pack. Others included Walter Gets Buzzed from Pigeon Hill Brewing Co. in Muskegon; Blood Orange Wheat from Farmington Brewing Co.; Coconut Brown from Blackrocks Brewery in Marquette; and finally a bottle of Distorter porter from Greenbush Brewing Co. in Sawyer, Mich.

The entire process took about two minutes and, in the end, I had a perfect beer gift for myself.

If you are feeling down because you missed the release of the Founders CBS (I did not) or cannot find any of the new releases from Speciation, have no fear.

"Go to your (or their) local brewery, chat with the staff and ask their advice," Wiltse said. "Gift certificates are always great, as are mug club memberships." Many breweries also have great merchandise, gift sets, bottles — River's Edge will release three barrel-aged bottles Dec. 9, including its 2018, a bourbon barrel-aged sparkling golden ale with grilled plums in a 750 ml champagne bottle. Growlers are available as well.

Dan Dean is managing editor of Hometown Life and a fan of brewed merchandise, especially coffee and craft beer with coffee.

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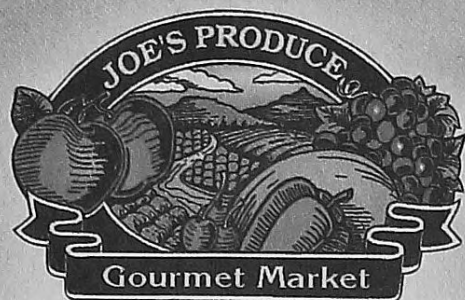
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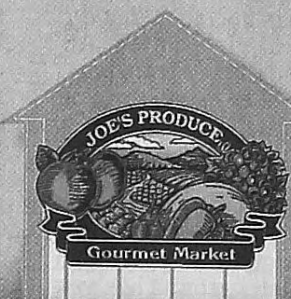
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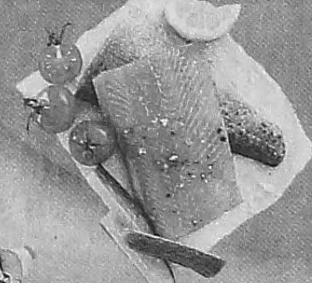
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**Chef's Feature Cider Roast Pork Loin**



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USA HOCKEY

## Ex-NTDP coaches Cole, Luongo to return with MSU

Second major college visit to USA Hockey Arena in past couple of weeks

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Danton Cole is all about the "red, white and blue," but don't fault him too much for slipping some "green" in there, too.

The 50-year-old Cole, who coached the past seven seasons for USA Hockey's National Team Development Program, returns Saturday to the Ply-

mouth arena he left last spring when he became head coach of Michigan State University.

The puck drops at 7 p.m. at USA Hockey Arena, located on Beck Road north of M-14 (734-453-8400).

Also back to visit their old stomping grounds will be MSU assistant coach Chris Luongo (on Cole's staff in 2015-17) and Spartans goalie coach Joe Exter.

On the Spartans' roster are four former NTDP players: forwards Patrick Khodorenko and Dylan Pavelek, defenseman Tommy Miller (West Bloomfield) and goaltender Ed

Minney.

"It will be a lot of fun to see the guys again," Cole wrote in an email to the Observer.

"There is a lot asked of them and we, as coaches, become very attached to young men that sacrifice a great deal to be there. I look forward to seeing the progress they have made."

Cole, a former National Hockey League player who guided the U.S. to the gold medal at the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation Under-18 World Championship in Slovakia, is looking forward to

See COACHES, Page B3



Danton Cole, shown from this season behind the Michigan State bench, is returning to face the USA Hockey NTDP — a program he coached for several seasons. MSU ATHLETICS

USA HOCKEY

## Kiefer's legacy honored with naming ceremony



On hand for the ceremonial puck drop for the renaming of the USA Hockey Arena rink in honor of Mitchel Kiefer were family members Paula, Julianna, Alexa and Steven, along with De La Salle's Joseph Jenkins (left) and Catholic Central's Brendan West. BRAD EMONS

### Rink named for former Catholic Central goalie killed in accident by distracted driver

Brad Emons

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Although he was taken much too soon, Mitchel Kiefer's legacy will be remembered every time hockey players and fans now step inside Plymouth's USA Hockey Arena.

In a ceremony Dec. 6 prior to Detroit Catholic Central's home game against Warren De La Salle, the Olympic-sized ice sheet was named in honor of the former Shamrocks goalie as a part of a new partnership between USA Hockey and the

Mitchel Kiefer Foundation.

The Northville resident, a member of the Shamrocks' 2016 Division 1 state championship team, was killed in a car accident Sept. 19 that year by a distracted driver while Keifer was on his way to Michigan State.

Police said at the time, Kiefer was driving westbound on I-96 near Williamston when his car was rear-ended by another vehicle, causing him to cross the median and collide with a truck hauling a trailer.

A 21-year-old Kalamazoo woman was sentenced to two years probation, almost \$1,900

in fines and 24 days of community service after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor count of "moving violation causing death."

Kiefer's family, including his father Steven, mother Paula and sisters Julianna and Alexa, were in attendance for the unveiling of the newly named rink in his name. (His brother Blake, a student at Grand Valley State, was unable to attend.)

The Kiefer Foundation has raised nearly \$1 million with the main message of putting distracted driving on ice.

"That's awesome and he

deserves it," said CC senior defenseman Jared Lee, a teammate of Kiefer's in 2016. "I think the message for the whole thing is a great idea. That's, obviously, a problem that needs to get addressed. His dad before the game said about him making a better place and changing the world. Even though he's gone, he's changing the world with that and his family his helping him out."

Some connected with Catholic Central had been floating around the idea build-

See KIEFER, Page B2

BOYS HOCKEY

## Showcase to spotlight top leagues

Full slate of games Dec. 16 in Livonia features KLAA vs. MIHL match-ups

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

They'll be jumping over the boards and onto the Eddie Edgar Arena ice for something like 12 hours straight.

The MIHL-KLAA High School Showcase is slated to begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, when Livonia Franklin faces Grand Blanc.

Ten additional games will follow — with games hosted on both ice sheets at Eddie Edgar in Livonia — as some of Michigan's best boys high school teams square off to give fans an opportunity to get a healthy hockey fix.

"This showcase is just what high school hockey needs more of," Livonia Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. "A number of great games all in one building, so people can see more than one game."

"The MIHL (Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League) showcase in February is our top event of the year, so it made sense to have a showcase earlier in the season."

Mitchell's Spartans will take on Orchard Lake St. Mary's at 5:30 p.m.

According to Ryan Ossenmacher, whose Salem Rocks will face Trenton at 1 p.m. in the fifth of 11 games on the schedule, it is important to note that the event is not a "public-private showcase, but rather a showcase of the two best leagues in the state. The number of players who have moved on from both of our leagues continues to grow every year."

One of Ossenmacher's former players, forward Matt Schaumburger (2017 grad) is playing for the Syracuse (N.Y.) Stars of the U.S. Premier Hockey League. As of Dec. 7, he had 11 goals and eight assists in 19 games.



Mitchell

See SHOWCASE, Page B2



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# KIEFER

Continued from Page B1

ing a state-of-the-art ice arena and sports complex on campus with Mitchel Kiefer's name in mind.

"We designed, scoped it, priced it," said Steven Kiefer, senior vice president of Purchasing and Supply Chain for General Motors. "We were in the process of thinking how we were going to raise the money."

But after much thought following Mitchel's death, Catholic Central and the Kiefer family went an alternate route while finding a willing partner in USA Hockey.

"At that point, you're in such a grief and a fog that I don't think you're thinking very straight," Steven Kiefer said. "And as we started looking at the cost of this complex, I realized very quickly that \$20 million could go a long way to help society. So we thought if we made a small gift to this facility, got the naming and really used our money and our ability to raise funds in our efforts to really get the message of distracted driving out, that would be so much more value than putting an effort to building a building."

John Vanbiesbrouck, vice president, Junior Council, for USA Hockey, was on hand to make the presentation to the family prior to the game.

"I introduced Steven to the USA Hockey family and just assisted with the friendship and the partnership that is now come together," said Vanbiesbrouck, the former NHL and Michigan State goalie. "It came with a vision. Steven wanted to do something special for Mitchel. The DCC team playing out of here ... they were debating on whether to build a whole fieldhouse and things like that. Why not do something special here, name the arena and have a memorial after his son? I think this just came together a long period of time of consideration and consulting."

Although Mitchel Kiefer played only one year of varsity hockey at CC, he had a positive impact on those around him.

"Mitch was 'the man' for the team," Lee said. "Everyone on the team loved that kid. He necessarily didn't play that much. That was the year we had (Alec) Calvaruso — fantastic goalie. But everyone loved Mitch on the team. I don't know if it's the right thing to say, but we loved to party with Mitchel. He was the man, always laughing, always having a good time, always picking the boys up. Never had a bad attitude. He was just an awesome kid. We all loved that kid."

Brandon Kaleniecki, in his first year as CC's coach that championship season, viewed Mitchel both as a unique person and player.

"He was a really good kid, a bright kid," Kaleniecki said. "That's what we remember most. He was hard-working, a fun kid to be around at practice and stuff like that. He was also very honest when you had conversations with him. Anytime



The late Mitchel Kiefer's number is hanging in the rafters at USA Hockey Arena. BRAD EMONS



The artist's rendering of the Kiefer Rink at USA Hockey Arena.

you did, he gave you answers that you didn't necessarily see coming. And that's a good thing, at least from the coaches' point of view."

In his short 18 years, Mitchel accomplished much. Born in Toyko, he lived half of his life in Europe.

"He played hockey in Europe and, boy, when he had the opportunity to play for Catholic Central, it was no question his dream," Steven Kiefer said. "We basically moved back from Europe so Mitchel could play hockey at Catholic Central. He's one of the few men that played on every

Catholic Central hockey team, meaning he came in as a prep player. He quickly moved up to the JV White team, then the JV Blue team and then, his senior year, year he was on varsity team and he worked so hard to make it as a goalie on the varsity team."

Following his graduation from CC, Mitchel spent the summer selling knives for Cutco.

"And if you know what that product is, it's the world's most well-known knife, but it's also about educating young people on how to sell," Steven Kiefer said. "And he quickly became the high-

est salesman in the company's history. He sold \$52,000 worth of knives in a three-week period in the summer of 2016. And he was just driven. He was just passionate about making the sale, so actually he holds the trophy and holds the award for the highest sales in the history of that company. They have a trophy and annual award named after Mitchel for top sales performer at Cutco."

Mitchel then enrolled at MSU and shifted his focus away from hockey.

"He wanted to move on to becoming a neuroscientist and move the

world becoming a neuroscientist and, unfortunately, that was cut short," Steven Kiefer said. "But fortunately, we were able to get an honorary degree from Michigan State. He was awarded that at the beginning of this year. And we just continue to do some amazing things in his honor."

The Kiefer Foundation has also worked with the state of Michigan to install guard rails at the location where the crash happened on I-96, at Dietz Road in Leroy Township. It helped fund a project with the Michigan Department of Transportation for 1.7 miles of cable guard rail to stop cars from going across that median.

"And just one month ago, after the posts were put in, four posts went down," Steven Kiefer said. "Some driver was caught and stopped from going across the median due to these guard rails and since have already been fixed."

The Kiefer Foundation has also staged several fundraisers since Mitchel's death through charity hockey games, charity golf outings, along with a number of charity city and high school events.

"It's really been effective at raising funds, but also raising awareness," Steven said. "The bigger

issue now is how to get the word out and how to change behavior."

The Kiefer Foundation is partnering with P.E.E.R.S. (Professionals Encouraging Educational Reforms), a nonprofit that is focused on educating young people.

During the Dec. 6 game, a virtual reality simulator was brought into the concourse located between the two rinks to educate drivers.

"It's a meaningful way to, basically, show somebody how easily texting and driving can create a fatal accident," Steven said. "So we've been working with them to upgrade the product. The system they use is a virtual reality system, which is moving toward a new generation, which is helping them fund it. In the first quarter of next year, we'll be taking it to 50 schools in the area to, basically, spread this message."

The Kiefer Foundation's goal is also to support policies, advancement and implementation of technology and end distracted driving that is associated with traffic deaths and injuries.

"So we believe, some way, Mitchel is changing the world for the better," Steven said.

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## SHOWCASE

Continued from Page B1

"This is an excellent opportunity to get many of the top programs in the state under one roof," Ossenmacher said. "This allows scouts to make a day of it and come out to watch several games, as opposed to traveling to a rink for a single game."

Also strongly behind the effort to bring a num-

ber of quality teams to one venue is Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento. The Wildcats will face Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood at 4:30 p.m.

"Arguably, the KLAA (Kensington Lakes Activities Association) and MIHL are two of the top conferences in the state," Vento said. "So putting them all under one roof in one day is not only going to make for some great high school hockey

match-ups and games early in the season, but it always allows scouts to do some one-stop shopping, so to speak.

"If there are fans of high school hockey out there, they should make the effort to check out some great hockey on Dec. 16."

Those fans who walk into the door at Eddie Edgar Arena (Lyndon, west of Farmington Road) will hear the sounds of sticks, skates

## THE SCHEDULE

**9 a.m.** — Grand Blanc vs. Livonia Franklin  
**10 a.m.** — Canton vs. Grosse Pointe North  
**11 a.m.** — Howell vs. Port Huron Northern  
**Noon** — Novi vs. University of Detroit-Jesuit  
**1 p.m.** — Salem vs. Trenton  
**2:30 p.m.** — Northville vs. Warren De La Salle  
**3:30 p.m.** — Livonia Churchill vs. Grosse Pointe South  
**4:30 p.m.** — Plymouth vs. Cranbrook

**5:30 p.m.** — Livonia Stevenson vs. Orchard Lake St. Mary's  
**6:30 p.m.** — Hartland vs. Birmingham Brother Rice  
**7:30 p.m.** — Brighton vs. Novi Detroit Catholic Central  
Eddie Edgar Arena is located at 33841 Lyndon, just west of Farmington Road, between Five Mile and I-96. For more information, call 734-422-5172. Admission is \$5.

and pucks echoing on both sides of the building. The 'A' and 'B' rinks will both be busy with

games throughout the morning, afternoon and evening.

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BOYS HOCKEY

# Plymouth hangs on to edge Churchill, 4-3

Potential blowout turns into nail-biter, but Wildcats able to survive

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The previous time Livonia Churchill and Plymouth got together for a boys hockey game, the Chargers won the regional title.

On Friday, at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, the Wildcats apparently remembered that night well and came out with a vengeance — scoring early and often, but ultimately needing to sweat out a 4-3 victory.

“Credit to Plymouth, they have a deep team this year,” Churchill head coach Jason Reynolds said. “They’re going to be one of the top competitors in Division 2, so we knew what we were coming into.”

“And, of course, they have a bone to pick with us this year because we won that regional championship last year. So I knew this game meant a lot to them.”

Plymouth didn’t waste any time. Junior forward Jacob Back charged in on Churchill senior goalie Chris Sergison and found the back of the net at the 15-second mark.

“We stressed really hard before the game started about starting on time and not sitting back,” Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento said. “Just get into it and take it to them and see what happens.”

“Obviously, first shift, first shot, makes a big difference and gets the guys going.”

The Wildcats added another goal just two minutes later, this one courtesy of senior forward C.J. Mullenax.

It was 3-0 before the period ended as sophomore forward Kyle Ahern scored his first varsity goal.

But then Sergison (15 saves) largely held the fort, not giving up a fourth goal until senior forward Tim Baldwin one-timed a centering pass from senior forward Jack Chumley early in



Tumbling into the boards Friday night are Plymouth’s Graham Sheehan (left) and Livonia Churchill’s Jordan Venegoni. TOM BEAUDOIN



Plymouth’s Jack Chumley (right) carries the puck, with Livonia Churchill’s Carter Swider in pursuit. TOM BEAUDOIN

the third period.

Churchill seemingly woke up when staring at a 4-0 deficit. It took the Chargers 11 only seconds to answer. Junior forward Zack Vendittelli lifted a backhander under the crossbar and a comeback bid was in full swing.

Although Plymouth senior goaltender Brendan Olepa faced just 19 shots, he had to make a couple of his biggest saves while protecting a 4-3 lead.

First, he sprawled acrobatically to deny a

Churchill scoring bid just outside the crease. It helped his cause that Matt Gibboney then blasted the rebound over an open net.

Then with about four minutes remaining, Venegoni ripped a shot that Olepa snagged.

“That kid can really shoot the puck; that was a big save,” Vento said. “It was a screen shot, too.”

Also helping Plymouth (4-1-1) close out the win was some strong work under pressure by senior defenseman Andrew Garby.

“We just had to start skating hard and get pucks out of the zone, that’s where we had trouble,” Garby said. “The pucks were getting out near the blue line and wouldn’t get out.”

“They’d keep it in. We just had to clear pucks out of the zone and get them deep, that’s how we prevented them from scoring.”

Following are other takeaways:

**START ON TIME**

One team answered the bell to open the con-

test and the other one didn’t, much to the chagrin of Reynolds.

“I think the most important thing to take away from tonight’s game is we need to start on time,” Reynolds said. “That’s something we preach to our team on a daily, weekly basis. And if you don’t start on time, especially against a team like Plymouth, it will come back to bite you.”

The Chargers (3-3) found themselves down a goal just 15 seconds into the contest and, before long, they were down 2-0.

**PLUG IT IN**

Livonia Churchill had just cut the deficit to 4-3 (on goals by Vendittelli, senior forward Josh Friend and senior forward Carter Swider) when Plymouth was called for a minor penalty with about 12 minutes remaining.

But the Wildcats were able to kill off the penalty.

“I think we need to do a better job of finding the open shooting lanes,” Reynolds said. “Move around the zone a little more, find some of the seams in the penalty kill where we can attack the

net.

“That’s something that’s going to be a work in progress.”

**THAT’S A FIRST**

Ahern finally scored the first goal of his high school varsity career. He buried a high shot inside the left post with 3:35 to go in the opening period to open up a 3-0 lead.

“Kyle’s a big, strong physical kid,” Vento said. “He plays hard, works hard. He’s been having chances and you could tell by that goal he’s got a great shot.”

“He put it where that goalie didn’t have a chance. But he does so much more for us than score goals.”

**LESSON LEARNED**

The Wildcats blew a three-goal lead Dec. 5 against state powerhouse Brighton, managing a 3-3 tie. Friday was similar, letting a 4-0 lead shrink to one goal.

Vento said the team is learning that comfortable leads vanish quickly against quality opponents.

“The boys realized that if they skate and play their system, they can at least play with anyone,” Vento said. “It’s just a matter of doing it for 51 minutes.”

In the Brighton game, Plymouth got goals from Adam Rebecca, Mullenax and Baldwin.

**SHOWCASE LOOMS**

Reynolds echoed other area coaches about the potentially thrilling day of high school hockey that will take place Saturday, Dec. 16, at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia.

It will be the inaugural MIHL-KLAA Showcase. Churchill squares off against Grosse Pointe South at 3:30 p.m.; Plymouth takes on Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood at 4:30 p.m. There will be 11 games, beginning at 9 a.m.

“From my standpoint, it seems as though the MIHL and the KLAA are the two top (leagues) in the state,” Reynolds said. “And anytime you have a chance to match those two leagues up next to one another, I think it makes for an exciting day of hockey.”

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## COACHES

Continued from Page B1

the game.

“Mostly, just to be back and see the players, coaches and staff that were a huge part of (wife) Deb and my lives over seven great years,” Cole wrote. “We had some very special moments, but the best part of being there was the people I got to work with and know.”

But Dec. 16 also will be a special night for Scott Monaghan, senior director of operations for the NTDP.

“It’s going to be emotional to see Danton and Chris over on that bench for MSU,” Monaghan said. “I remember them as players (for the Spartans) when I was a student. I was honored to give them an opportunity here with the national program. And I know coaching their alma mater was a dream for both of them.”

Because the NTDP is a pipeline of potential Division I players for colleges such as Michigan State, Monaghan also sees Cole’s return to East Lansing as a win-win situation in the development of young players.

“I always tell kids you go to a college for the



Chris Luongo surveys the action during a recent MSU men’s hockey game. REY DEL RIO | MSU ATHLETICS

school,” Monaghan said. “Make sure you pick a place, not a person. But if I had a son in that position, I would always be 100-percent behind them playing for Danton Cole.”

“He’s a good human being and he’s about more than just the ‘hockey part.’ He cares about kids and their futures.”

In some ways, taking over the reins of a relatively inexperienced college team — which Cole has done with the Spartans — merely is an extension of what he did

with USA Hockey.

“The season has gone well and the team has made a lot of progress,” Cole added. “We are very young, 19 freshmen and sophomores, so there is a lot to learn.”

“I really have enjoyed the work ethic and commitment of the team and they represent MSU very well.”

**U18 team edges Central Illinois**

On Dec. 9 in a contest at USA Hockey Arena, the U.S. NTDP U-18 team

defeated Central Illinois, 6-2.

Leading the way with a goal and two assists was Joel Farabee, while Birmingham’s Bode Wilde, Jonathan Gruden (Rochester) and K’Andre Miller also scored.

Making 25 saves in goal for the victory was Drew DeRidder (Fenton).

**Schoolcraft splits pair**

Schoolcraft College’s men’s club hockey team played two American Collegiate Hockey As-

## SPARTANS VS. TEAM USA

**What:** Michigan State University’s men’s hockey team will face the U.S. National Team Development Program’s U-18 team. The game is part of the NTDP vs. NCAA College Series presented by Kroger.

**When/where:** Puck drop is at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

**Welcome back:** Former NTDP coaches Danton Cole, Chris Luongo (an ex-Detroit Red Wings player) and Joe Exter now are with the MSU coaching staff and will be back to face their former program.

Cole was head coach the past seven seasons, while Luongo was one of his assistant coaches in 2015-17 (and previously on the same staff at Wayne State University). Exter, a goalie coach, founded and developed USA Hockey’s renowned Warren Strelow National Goaltending program while a coach with the NTDP.

Several former NTDP players also are on the Spartans, including defenseman Tommy Miller of West Bloomfield.

**Tickets:** Good seats (starting at \$10) remain available, but the crowd should be similar to the near-capacity 3,715 on hand for the Dec. 2 game against Michigan. Go to usahockeyarena.com or call 734-453-8400 for more information.

sociation games over the weekend at Redford Ice Arena and came away with a lopsided win followed by a lopsided loss against Miami (Ohio) University.

On Dec. 8, the Ocelots built an 8-2 lead after two periods and posted a 10-4 victory. Big guns in the win were Griffen Ahmet (two goals, assist), Richard Corso (two goals), Jacob St. Andre (goal, two assists) and Scott Pohl (goal, assist).

Making 20 saves for Schoolcraft was goaltender Connor O’Reilly.

The following after-

noon, however, Miami came out looking for revenge and got it with a decisive 9-3 win. Schoolcraft goals were scored by Ahmet, Sage Becraft and Nolan Cioch.

Next up for coach Rob Lindsay’s team is a home-and-home against Western Michigan University. The Ocelots will visit WMU for a game at 6 p.m. Friday, followed by a home game at Redford (at 6:30 p.m. Saturday).

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PREP WRESTLING

# Rockets pin Oxford for big early win

**Brad Kadrich**  
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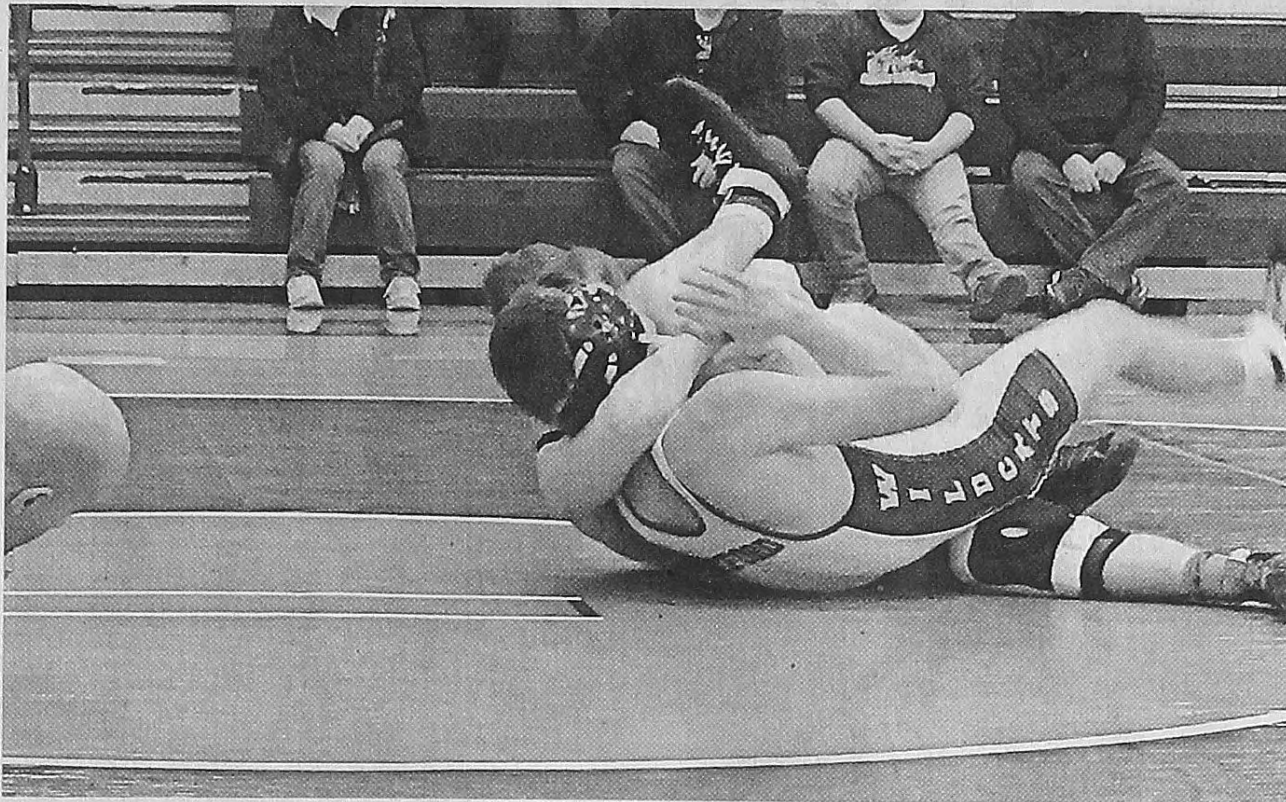
It's never too early in the season for a test and John Glenn's wrestling team took one — and passed with ease — Wednesday in its Assembly Day wrestling match-up with Oxford.

The Rockets, ranked sixth on michigangrappler.com, used six pins in their seven wins to topple the fifth-ranked Wildcats, 39-31, in a match that wasn't as close as the final score indicated.

After losing two of the first three matches, John Glenn rattled off five straight wins by pinfall to claim control of the non-league meet, which could be a precursor to a possible meeting in the state tournament.

"Our kids knew what they had to do and they did it," John Glenn coach Bill Polk said. (Oxford) is a great program. ... This was a big win for us."

With the Rockets trailing 12-6 after three matches, Caleb Meekins



John Glenn's Michael Mars pinned Oxford's Nate Call in 1:10 in their 130-pound clash. BRAD KADRICH

got his team started on the comeback trail by pinning Oxford's Dalton Myers in 2:43 at 119 pounds.

Then, in succession:

» Kyle Borthwell pinned Oxford's Liam Hillary in 1:55 at 125 pounds

» Mike Mars pinned Nate Call in just 1:10 at

130 pounds

» Isaac Lefler pinned Oxford's Joe Vackaro in 5:10 at 135 pounds to stretch John Glenn's lead to 30-12

After Oxford's Sergio Borg hit John Glenn's Anthony Hudson with a 9-0 major decision at 140 pounds, the Rockets' Brenten Polk pinned

Jack Wandrie at 145 and John Glenn's Anthony Gibson beat Ryan Miller, 5-0, to provide the final margin

"There were two very good teams and we had a lot of competitive matches," Bill Polk said. "We won more of those. That's what it came down to."

Oxford coach Ross Wingert, in his first years as Wildcats head coach, said good teams can't suffer six pins and expect to win a match.

"We got pinned," Wingert said. "You can't have two quality teams and expect to win meets that way. We can't give up bonus points and we have to go and get some of those bonus points."

Oxford won the final three matches, including the 189-pound match by pinfall, to close the meet.

Polk knows how big the win is.

"They're a great program; last year they beat us," Polk said. "It was a huge win to start out the year."

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BOYS BASKETBALL

## South Lyon defense suffocates Salem

**Brad Emmons**  
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USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Jared Townsley and Noah Grimes are wasting little time in making an impact during their senior season for the South Lyon boys basketball team.

And both proved to be key figures Friday night in the host Lions' 43-35 triumph over former KLAA Central Division foe Salem.

The 6-foot-5 Grimes, coming off a 27-point outing in a season-opening win over Temperance Bedford, led the way again with 15 points, including nine in the final quarter after Salem had taken a 31-30 lead entering the fourth.

The 6-6 Townsley, meanwhile, finished with 12 points and helped seal the victory with four straight free throws during the final 2:16.

"Noah Grimes has put in the work this off-season, as you see," said first-year South Lyon coach Troy Weidman, whose team is off to a 2-0 start. "I couldn't be happier for both those guys, especially Noah, in the sense that he struggled for the first three quarters offensively. And he knew he had to put the team on his back and he kind of did that the fourth quarter."

Townsley, literally, is just glad to be back after playing just three games a year ago due to a nagging injury.

"Right before the season, the first day of tryouts, my back started hurting really bad," said Townsley, who scored six points in the opening half as South Lyon led, 28-22. "I wasn't really able to walk at all and, after the first day, I found out my hip joint kind of came dislocated. And then week after week, I'd go to physical therapy, chiropractor, just multiple different doctors ... and then come back to playing. I'd play for a half of a practice and then be out for another three or four weeks. So the whole year was pretty tough for me."

The key to Townsley's recovery was patience, as he rested for eight months during the off-season.

"I really couldn't do anything other than coming in and watching these guys and just encourage them," he said. "The whole time, I was just hoping to get out there and play with them. I think rest was the cure and just really stretching, just really make sure I get warmed up before I play and not do anything stupid off the court or anything like that. I had to stay smart, stay composed, because I really wanted to play this season."

Just having Townsley back on the floor is a bonus, accord-

ing to Weidman.

"I'm so happy for Jared Townsley to be able to play and get some minutes," he said. "He's a great kid. He's got phenomenal upside to continue to play even after high school. And he's just starting to get healthy."

Townsley is hoping there are even better things to come as the season unfolds going into the new Lakes Valley Conference.

"After tonight, I feel really good," he said. "I'm happy we got the win and the whole team played really hard. We all stayed composed, stayed patient. Me, personally, I'm a little bit sore right now, but I'm sure I'll be all right within a few days."

Grimes, meanwhile, averaged seven points per game last season, but he's stepped up his scoring so far in South Lyon's two wins with a total of 42 points.

"I worked a lot on my shot and transitioning more to a point guard sort of role," Grimes said. "I just try and be strong with the ball, use my handles and find my teammates."

Although Grimes struggled at the free-throw line during the final quarter, going 4-of-8, he was a constant on the other end of the floor.

"We're built around defense, so the entire game we were just kind of rallying around our defense," he said. "And our offense was coming from our defense. It kind of pulled us through our offensive struggles. That's our big thing, we're just going to outwork the other team. That's our big thing."

Here are four other takeaways:

**FLOOR BURNS**  
The Lions came out flying on the defensive end, holding the Rocks to 12-of-39 shooting from the floor (30 percent).

"I was really proud of the guys," Weidman said. "Our goal is 11 points a quarter or under and they accomplished it all four quarters, so it was fun. They were fun to watch and everyone contributed."

In the season opening win Dec. 5 over Bedford, the Lions did not come up with any loose balls. Against Salem, South Lyon forced 19 turnovers.

"They took that to heart once we went through that," Weidman said. "We have a goal to what we, basically, call 'get dirty' and to get on the floor and track that. Tonight it was

fun, because they were on the floor for every loose ball."

**COLD SPELL**

The Lions went 1-of-11 in the third quarter, going scoreless for the first 6:10 before, Grimes broke the ice with basket with 1:50 to go in the quarter to make it 30-30.

Weidman stayed positive on the bench during the lull and South Lyon went on to outscore Salem in the decisive fourth quarter, 13-4.

"To me it's applaud, because they were busting it on defense and doing everything possible defensively that they could do," he said. "So it was just a matter of, OK, trust it and trust what we do, continue to shoot. I don't think you ever yell at a kid and they'll shoot any better. So from a shot standpoint ... no, just play, but don't have that impact our defense."

**ROCKS ROCKY**

Salem (1-1) was coming off a season-opening 67-58 overtime victory over Dearborn Divine Child, but the Rocks struggled to find any consistency against South Lyon.

"I told the guys there wasn't one aspect of the game that we're winning," said Salem coach Bob Brodie, entering his 34th varsity season. "They took us right out of our game at both ends. They took it to the hole, they took it to the rack. They didn't have any prolific offensive patterns, they took it to us. On the defensive end, they took us out of everything we were trying to do just because of their aggressiveness. Give them credit, they played tough tonight on their turf and we just folded."

**NEW FACES**

Salem returns just one starter from a year ago, junior guard Jordan Ingram.

"Everybody else is a little green right now and it will take us time to figure things out here," Brodie said. "The kids are working hard here, I'm proud of the way they're working. And they don't quit, they keep playing. We got a ways to go yet."

Senior guard Shawn Srivastava, who made three 3-pointers, shared game-high scoring honors with 15 points, while fellow senior guard Thomas Noble added nine.

"We're trying to find whoever is going to step up and accept the challenge each game, each play," Brodie said. "Last game, it was different than what we started. This game, we didn't find anybody that we were happy with all the time. We're still trying to work and let the kids develop the way they can and see who steps forward."

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GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

## Longtime Churchill coach Tatro resigns

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USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's been quite a run for the Livonia Churchill girls cross country program during the past 22 years and the one constant during that stretch has decided to hand off the baton.

Sue Tatro, who guided the Chargers to 14 MHSAA Division 1 state finals and five straight top 10 finishes (2004-08), including state runner-up in 2006, submitted her letter of resignation last month.

Tatro, who ran at both Livonia Stevenson High and Michigan State, began her coaching career at Livonia Franklin, where she spent her first six seasons.

The decision proved to be bittersweet for Tatro, who will now get to devote more of her time during the fall seasons with her husband Gerald and son Reid, where they reside in Milford.

"For the last 28 seasons, my coaching experience with Livonia Public Schools couldn't have been more fulfilling," Tatro said. "I had the privilege and honor of coaching some amazing student-athletes and working under Marc Hage, who happens to be one of the best A.D.s in the state."

Tatro put together quite a resume at Churchill, guiding the Chargers to 17 division, four regional and five conference crowns (between the Western Lakes and Kensington Valley activities associations).

Churchill also captured 11 Livonia Public Schools titles.

"She did so many things well and brought so many kids into the program," Hage said. "I know it's an extreme struggle for her. She was really wrestling with it. She knew this was going to be the last year for her. She told me early on, but when it finally hits and finally sinks in, it wasn't easy for her. I'll miss her like crazy. It's certainly a void we'll miss on paper, but more missing her in spirit."

Tatro coached eight different all-staters at Churchill, including three-time honorees Sara Kroll, her current assistant coach, and Rachel McFarlane.

Both went on to have distinguished careers running for MSU.

Kroll, who qualified for

Foot Locker Nationals as a senior at Churchill, was the 2012 Big Ten champion and a member of MSU's 2014 NCAA championship team. She currently teaches at Franklin and is a part-time cross country and track TV analyst for the Big Ten Network.

McFarlane was an all-Big Ten second team selection and is currently coaching at the University of North Florida.

"She has just been an athlete's coach," Hage said of Tatro. "She relates so well to the kids. Of any coach, she gets the most out of kids. She would just develop talent, cultivate it and then push those kids to do almost beyond their best. She really would, as evidenced by how many kids she had running at the collegiate level. It's just not a testament to her ability to develop skill, but a testament to her ability to get kids to genuinely love running — and that's not easy to do. That maybe speaks more to her abilities than the skill level portion."

Tatro, an accomplished runner herself who was once a top three finisher at the Detroit Free Press Marathon, said she had a strong support system while coaching at Churchill.

"I also had a terrific counterpart in my dear friend John McGreevy, in addition to working with some phenomenal volunteer coaches like Michelle Phillips, Becki Barnes, Angela Schulteis and Sara Kroll throughout the years," Tatro said. "All of the people I met along the way will always hold a special place in my heart and I will continue to savor the great memories."

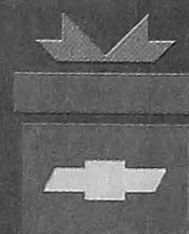
McGreevy, the Churchill boys coach since 1995, said Tatro's absence at cross country meets next fall will not go unnoticed.

"It is going to be very different next year coaching cross country without Sue Tatro leading the Churchill girls," he said. "She is an awesome coach who is admired and respected throughout our league. Sue has built and led one of the finest programs in the state for over 20 years. Even though Sue always seems to exude cheerfulness, she is a fierce competitor. Her runners were always well-prepared and most had the same intense desire to excel. I think I am going to miss the laughs the most. We laughed a lot."

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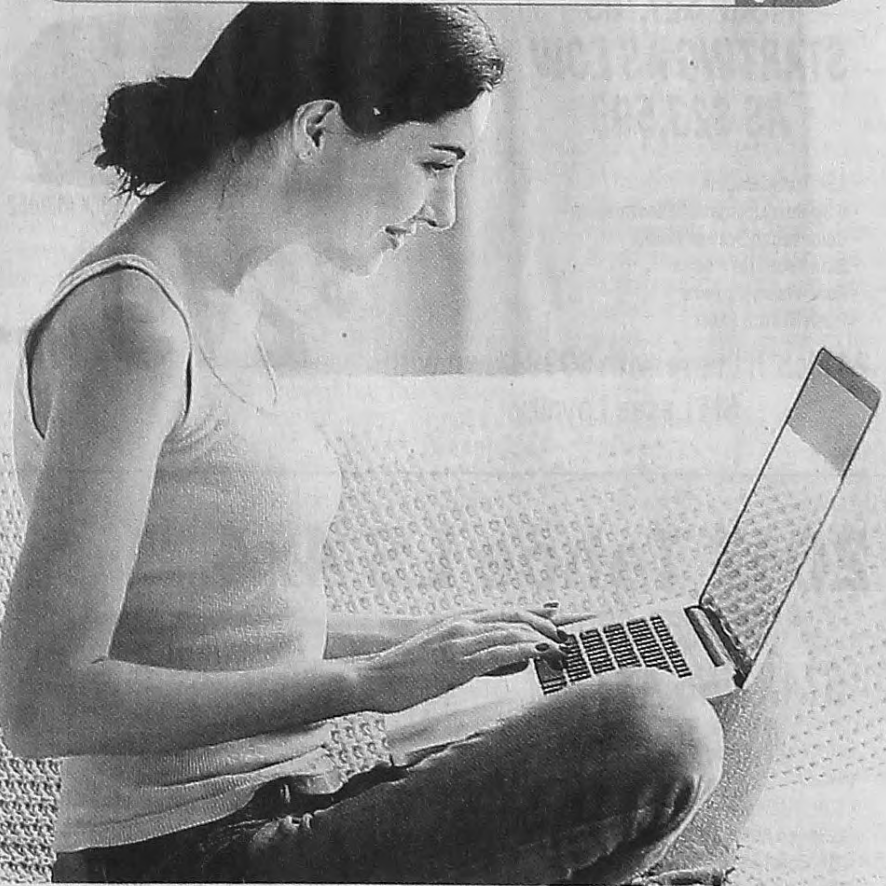
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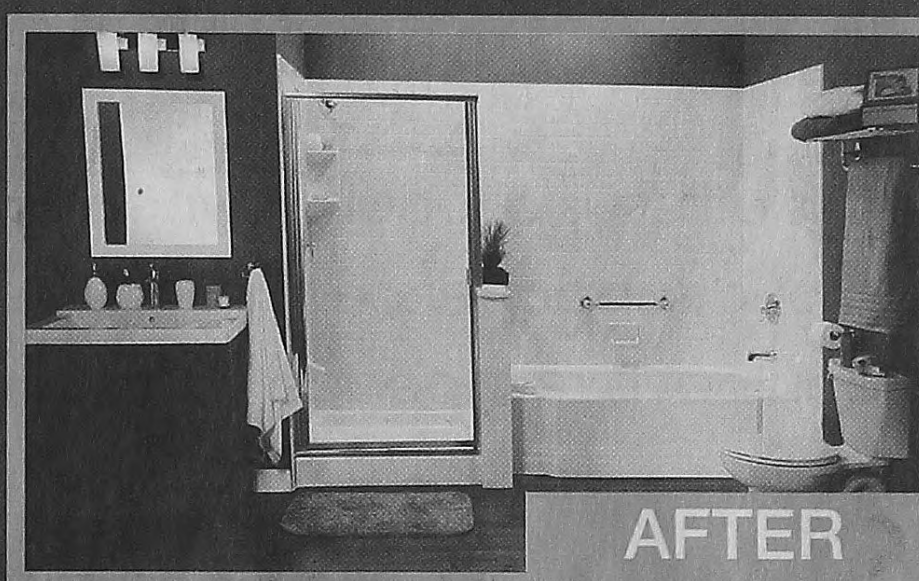
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