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USA WEEKEND



**Tax time**

Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards is reminding residents the last day to pay winter taxes without having an interest fee tacked on is 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Between Feb. 15-29, those taxes will have a 1-percent interest fee added.

The last day to pay real property taxes in the township is Feb. 29; after that date, taxpayers would have to go down to Wayne County to pay those taxes.

Edwards' office will be open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday. There's also a drop box available for taxpayers to use. Payments left in that drop box through 8 a.m. Feb. 15 will count as paid on time.

Questions can be directed to the treasurer's office, (734) 354-3214.

**Book talk**

Recognizing recent community attention on two books being studied in local high school classrooms, the Plymouth District Library focuses attention on both within the framework of censorship and intellectual freedom.



In "Lit Profs, Waterland and Beloved," taking place Monday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m., Dr. Heather Neff, a faculty member at Eastern Michigan, and Dr. Sidney Bolkosky, director of the U-M-Dearborn honors program, will share their experiences of teaching "Waterland" and "Beloved."

In "Censorship and Intellectual Freedom," Wednesday, March 7, at 7 p.m., EMU professor Dr. Harry Eiss shares his thoughts on censorship.

Register for one or both of these free programs by contacting the library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4, or by going to plymouthlibrary.org.

**Valentine's Day contest**

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win a \$400 package for a night at the Townsend Hotel and an \$80 voucher for the Rugby Grille. Nine second-place winners will get two tickets to Emagine Theatres. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra five chances to win if they also enter. Pairs of movie tickets will be awarded Feb. 1 to Feb. 10. The Grand Prize drawing is Feb. 13. Go to Hometownlife.com, and click on the Valentine's Contest link, on our Don't Miss module on the right-hand side of the site.

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Volume 125 • Number 52

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**Sheldon rezoning vote postponed**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

A request to rezone a warehouse property on Sheldon, under heavy criticism from residential neighbors and those who say a shopping plaza there would threaten downtown Plymouth, was postponed at Wednesday's Plymouth Planning Commission meeting.

Grand/Sakwa Properties, which owns retail centers in Canton and Northville townships and other neighboring communities, says

it will revise its rezoning petition for the 36 acres on Sheldon near the CSX Railroad tracks, where a warehouse of more than 500,000 square feet now sits. The revised bid will be offered at the planners' next meeting, on Wednesday, March 14.

Grand/Sakwa, which is in negotiations to buy the property, is seeking a change in zoning from light industrial to a general business category that would allow for retail, medical, office and a variety of other uses. The building, built in the 1950s as a facility

for the former Western Electric, is only partially used.

The developer hasn't specified tenants, but has talked about a regional shopping plaza of 200,000 to 300,000 square feet.

However, residents of the nearby New England Village subdivision, and some in Plymouth Township, which is adjacent to the rezoning, have objected to the rezoning, saying a shopping center could bring crime and noise and light pollution and dangerously increase Sheldon Road traffic. Those who fear more retail space

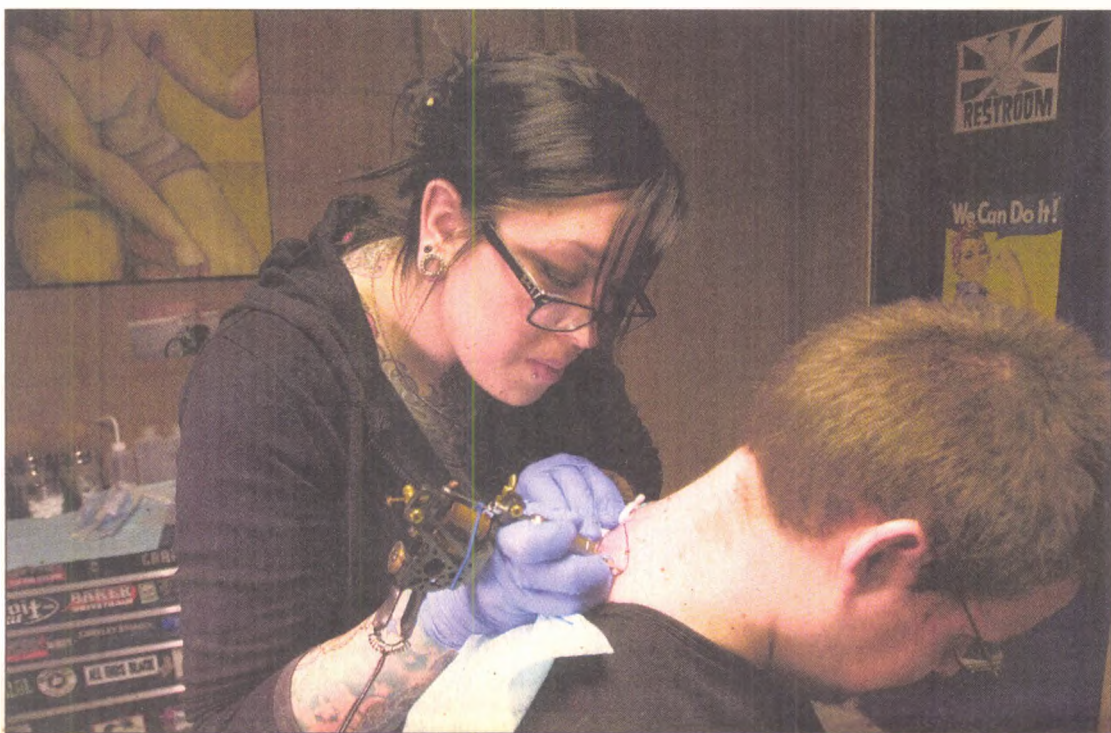
would sap downtown businesses are also against the project.

Gary Sakwa, a partner in the development company, outlined in a recent letter to planners a list of conditions he said Grand/Sakwa was willing to impose on own petition as an effort to allay opponents' fears.

**No Walmart**

Those included a pledge to not locate a Walmart or a Sam's Club on the site, nor a automobile

Please see REZONING, A5



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artist Latricia Horstman works on a design for client Steve Sarten. Sarten, who lives in Canton, is having an older tattoo masked by the new.

**From chocolates to tattoos, shops offer Valentine's variety**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

From traditional gifts of the offbeat — like his and her tattoos — local businesses offer a range of choices for Valentine's Day shoppers.

Last-minute buyers can pick up a bouquet at an area florist, visit one of Plymouth's many sweet shops or get the candy and the flowers together at Holiday Market in Canton Township or the Busch's in Plymouth Township.

For those with a little more time, and sense of adventure, local shops offer the right ring for popping the question, the opportunity to join their significant other for a couples massage or the help (and ingredients) for planning a gourmet meal.

Candy is often a good fallback option.

"They're going to run in on Valentine's Day the day before to get their candy," said Sandi McGrew, owner of



Showroom of Elegance sales associate Ashley Esper can help you design your own, one-of-a-kind Pandora bracelet. A Valentine's Day promotion includes a heart-shaped jewelry box.

The Candy Trail in downtown Plymouth.

McGrew's store, on Ann Arbor Trail, specializes in bulk candy, which is popular for

schools' Valentine's parties (the pink and red Jelly Belly jelly bean mix is a hit this year). But there are also specialty candies — "roses" with petals of chocolate in pink and red foil, "bouquets" of candy bars and pecan, caramel and chocolate "turtles" made at Jo-Jo's Treats & Sweets in Old Village — for more intimate Valentines.

"I get a lot of people looking now, trying to see what they want," McGrew said.

**Pretty things**

There is more traffic, too, at jewelry shops, as men take advantage of Valentine's Day to buy a baubles for their loved ones.

"Around Valentine's, you get more men coming in," said Linda Robin, owner of Showroom of Elegance on Canton Center Road in Canton.

Pieces with red gemstones, such as garnets and rubies; any heart-shaped jewelry; and

Please see VALENTINE'S, A7

**Book decision in committee's hands**

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

The fate of Graham Swift's 1983 prize-winning novel "Waterland" is in the hands of a complaint review committee after a nearly three-hour meeting Wednesday to determine its appropriateness for use in Plymouth-Canton's Advanced Placement English curriculum.

After listening to the com-

plaint from Matt and Barb Dame of Canton and the response from AP English teachers Brian Read and Gretchen Miller, and taking written comments from some of the several dozen people in attendance, the committee repaired to closed sessions to debate the book's merits.

The committee will meet again Monday, in a private session, to continue the debate. A decision could come as early

as next week.

"This is not typically a public process," said director of secondary education Erin MacGregor, who is facilitating the committee. "Because of the high public interest, we wanted to make sure this part was public."

**Similar complaint**

It's the second committee to meet in less than a month over

Please see BOOK, A3

**Big Boy closing, Kroger to expand**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

It's closing time at the Big Boy restaurant in Plymouth Township.

Today is the last day for the Big Boy, a fixture on Ann Arbor Road just west of Sheldon for more than 30 years. The building will reportedly be razed to make way for an expansion of the neighboring Kroger supermarket and an additional commercial space.

Owner Imad Hakkani could not be reached on Friday, but the closing was confirmed by day manager Mike Elewa and a waitress. The closing had been rumored for several months.

The development follows the approval in December, by the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, of an amendment to a 1998 consent judgment between the township and the owners of the Plymouth Square Plaza at Sheldon and Ann Arbor Road. But Hakkani said at the time the Big Boy was for sale.

The amendment will allow several planned changes at the plaza: the addition of 15,550 square feet to the north side of Kroger, the building of 10,850 more square feet in an attached building, and the addition of a Kroger-brand gas station at the northeast corner of the plaza, where a vacant bank building now sits.

In addition to the Big Boy and the bank, plans on file with the township call for razing a third building at the plaza, one that houses four businesses, including Plymouth Beauty Supply and the Pagoda Inn restaurant.

Please see BIG BOY, A6



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Big Boy restaurant (in background) will close, allowing Kroger to expand its store.



# Locals largely positive on Snyder's budget

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Legislators representing the Plymouth-Canton area were largely positive after Gov. Rick Snyder released his fiscal 2013 budget Thursday.

Lining up along party lines, Republican state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, and state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, reacted positively to Snyder's presentation. Democrat state Rep. Dian Slavens was more critical, saying Snyder should have done more for education.

Snyder was determined to make sure the first surplus of his administration would not be the last. He issued funding increases in small doses for education, cities and roads, while giving a 16-percent boost to the Michigan State Police as he prepares a major policy address on

public safety in March. Snyder stressed a pay-as-you-go approach in which state funds increasingly are allocated to programs based on performance.

After major changes last year in tax policy — including elimination of the Michigan Business Tax, increased income taxes on public and private pensions and elimination of large numbers of tax credits — Snyder's 2013 budget contained no new tax cuts or increases. The governor also introduced no significant changes to state government's structure or programs.

The 2013 budget recommends \$8.62 billion in general fund spending, up 3.1 percent from \$8.36 billion this year. The total budget, including federal and other funds, is up 2.4 percent, to \$48.2 billion.

"I think this is a very sound budget. We are living within

our means, it's a balanced budget, doesn't tweak the tax code at all," Heise said. "It provides more money for K-12, which I like. I wish it were more, but at least it's not being cut any more."

Snyder's plan doesn't increase the per-pupil foundation grant at all, although districts will have to pay less into the teacher retirement system because the state will pay more. Any additional K-12 funding will come through the following of "best practices" and other incentives. Plymouth-Canton earned an extra \$100 per student last year following such practices.

Slavens criticized the budget for not doing more to help local school districts.

"I am disappointed that the proposed budget only includes a tiny restoration of last year's devastating education funding

cuts," Slavens said. "The damage that last year's budget had on our public schools cannot be restored with per-pupil foundation funding staying the same as last year. Our children's education was presented in charts and dollar signs, but what the majority fails to understand is that our children's future is priceless and the foundation for moving our state forward."

Colbeck likes the incentive-laden budget plan, calling it "100 percent in line with my proposed transparency legislation" he said encourages consolidation of services and places emphasis on providing quality services while holding down costs through best practices.

"I'm very appreciate of the governor's focus on service-oriented government," Colbeck said. "The incentives the governor proposed will encourage

adoption of these best practices. With regard to school funding, the foundation allowance will be same as last year. However, there will be an additional 2.5 percent available for schools in return for performance. Michigan is 21st in our per-pupil funding, but in the mid- to high-30s in regard to performance. We need to do better for our kids."

While Heise was OK with Snyder's incentive plan, he's concerned about the continued use of Proposal A funding for community colleges and universities.

"I still don't understand the use of Prop A K-12 money going toward community colleges and universities," Heise said. "It isn't as bad as last year, but it's something I still think we need to get away from that."

Gannett News Service contributed to this report.

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## AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

### NEW MORNING EVENT

Date/Time: Sunday, Feb. 12, 1-2 p.m.

Location: New Morning School, 14501 Haggerty in Plymouth

Details: New Morning School will host an open house for families interested in enrolling their children in preschool through eighth grade. Directly following, from 2-3:30 p.m., will be the school's annual Student Museum, showcasing students and their outstanding work on self-selected research topics and projects.

Contact: More information is available at www.newmorningschool.org or by calling (734) 420-3331.

### THEATER ORGAN SPECTACULAR

Date/Time: Feb. 17, 7 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Farmington

Details: Organ virtuoso Lance Luce returns for another evening of old-fashioned musical fun for the whole family. Internationally acclaimed as a theater organist, Luce will accompany classic silent movies from the golden age of cinema as well as lead a sing-along with the audience. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$25 per family.

### JAZZ NIGHT

Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7-10 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth

Details: Jazz @ The Elks continues, featuring the Johnny Trudell Quartet with John Trudell on Brass, Bill Cairo on Drums, Ray Tini on Bass, and Chuck Shermatero on Keyboard. A \$10 donation includes a light snack.

Contact: Call (734) 453-1780 or go to PlymouthElks1780.com for more information.

### GRIEF SUPPORT

Date/Time: April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 9, 7-9 p.m.

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N Territorial Road, Plymouth.

Details: The "Grieving With Great Hope" workshop offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Speakers will include Deacon Bob Irvin, Fr. John Riccardo, as well as John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization. Registration forms are online at www.goodmourningministry.net or call OLG.

Contact: OLG-734-453-0326, olgparish.net

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**BOOK**

Continued from page A1

an AP English book. Late last month, a similar committee recommended Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Beloved" remain in the curriculum. The complaint against that book was also brought by the Dames.

Their complaints were largely two-fold: That the books weren't vetted properly and that content in both was inappropriate for high school students, even those in AP classes. "Waterland" deals with issues of teenage sex and abortion and contains two passages the Dames found objectionable.

Dame said the vetting process wasn't followed because the books weren't approved by the Board of Education. He played videotape of Jeremy Hughes, the district's superintendent, saying at a recent board meeting the books were never approved by the board.

"This isn't just my opinion that it was never vetted," Dame said. "It's fact."

But Read countered by saying "Waterland" was not a textbook, but an instruction resource like many other books being taught throughout all curriculums, not just



Barb and Matt Dame of Canton (left) presented their case about 'Waterland' at Wednesday's complaint review committee hearing.

AP English. Forcing the board to read every book in the curriculum would be "unwieldy," Read said.

**Literary merit**

The Dames took turns discussing the objectionable passages, one that features a teacher recounting a sexual encounter with a girl when both were 15 years old, and another a graphic depiction of the abortion the girl had to end the resulting pregnancy.

"There is no literary merit to this book," Barb Dame said. "It's not on the AP (test) list. I don't see any reason to have it in the class. I wondered as I read it what the relevance was to an English class."

Read extolled the virtues of both "Waterland" and "Beloved" as books that dovetail with each

other to teach students how to think critically.

"('Waterland') is a wonderful piece of literature," Read said. "It may not be to everyone's taste, but claiming it's pornography is absolutely incorrect."

That was in response to a comparison made by Dame between "Waterland" and Playboy magazine, which he pointed out features articles with brilliant writing about people like Martin Luther King, Jimmy Carter, Steve Jobs and others.

But Read said the comparison was unfair.

"It's obvious what the first purpose of Playboy is ... it's sexual arousal," Read said. "The idea ('Waterland') is about sexual things is just inaccurate."

**Changes coming**

Another part of the complaint was the con-

tention by the Dames parents aren't warned fully enough about the content of the books in the class.

"Teachers know these books, they know what's there," Barb Dame said. "Parents aren't going to find that out before it's too late."

Both Read and Miller conceded a more specific warning would be helpful, and said such a disclosure would be developed before next school year.

Read also said "Waterland" will not be returned to the classroom this year due to the length of time it's been out. Hughes removed it in mid-December.

"There just isn't time," Read said. "We're moving on."

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**CRIME WATCH**

**Fuel flagged**

Seventy-five gallons of diesel fuel were reported stolen Sunday from a delivery truck at a Plymouth Township ice-cream plant.

The dock supervisor at Edy's Ice Cream, on Port Street between Sheldon and Beck, told police the fuel was siphoned out of the truck between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. Sunday. The lock on the truck's fuel filler cap had been punched out, police said. The fuel has a retail value of almost \$300.

In addition, the fuel filler cap locks on two other trucks at Edy's had been tampered with, police said.

**Truck stolen**

A diesel pickup was reported stolen Saturday from the northeast parking lot at the Comfort Inn on Ann Arbor Road near I-275. The victim, a Grand Ledge, Mich., man, told police he had parked and locked the Ford F-250 at about 8 p.m. Friday and returned to the lot at 6 a.m. Saturday to find it gone.

**Stolen for scrap**

The catalytic converter was cut from a Chevrolet Cavalier as the car sat outside an apartment on Ann Arbor Road in the township late last month.

The victim told police she discovered the theft on Jan. 30, after seeing her car's muffler sitting next to the Cavalier in the apartment parking lot. She drove the Cavalier to a muffler shop for repairs, she said, and the repairman told her the catalytic converter had also been cut off.

Catalytic converters are typically stolen for the valuable metals inside.

**Heavy lifting**

Three weights used in underground drilling were reported stolen Feb. 2 from a township company on Plymouth Oaks Boulevard, in the area of M-14 and Sheldon Road. The theft occurred between the afternoon of Jan. 1 and early on Feb. 2, a manager told police. One of the stolen weights weighed 300 pounds, while the other two weighed 140 pounds each, a police report said.

— By Matt Jachman

# Non-local banks think Kellogg Park is where Tony the Tiger lives.

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Plymouth-Canton's fifth-grade teachers even got in on the drumming during Thursday's Black History event at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

## Kids see Black History through artists' eyes

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

It was hard to tell who was having more fun, master drummer Kevin Collins or the fifth-grade students at Canton's Village Theater at Cherry Hill Tuesday.

Collins, a musician for more than 40 years, was one of a trio of performers brought in to help Plymouth-Canton Community Schools fifth-graders to see African-American history through the eyes of artists in a field trip to the Village Theater.

It was part of a four-day excursion that saw students from all 16 of Plymouth-Canton's elementary schools take part in the interactive assembly.

While folk musician Matt Watroba and fellow musician Robert Jones, also a pastor, used their talent to demonstrate how music from different cultures have blended to create the American experience, it was Collins who had feet stomping and students clapping at the end of

each session.

"You have different cultures, and we're all on this Earth together," Collins said. "A lot of times, kids go and watch things. When they take part (in the process), you're getting them involved. They love that hands-on aspect, and it's really the best way to learn."

The venue was also an integral part of the effectiveness of the presentation. The 400-seat theater allowed four classes of students to get the message at once.

"It's not (learning from) a book, it's not in a classroom," said Jill Engel, director of the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, one of the sponsors of the program. "There are probably lots of kids who've never been to a theater before. It's a fabulous experience."

While Collins used a variety of drums and a bell to demonstrate how messages were sent and how music was used throughout history, Watroba and Jones continued an act they first put together in the late 1980s, one

they take around to schools around the state and the country to show how music has crossed cultural and chronological borders to help unite cultures.

Their musical trip took them from the beginnings of slavery through the civil rights movement and showed them how music was used to help slaves escape in the underground railroad, and how non-violent protesters used it to move their agenda in the 1960s.

When they first came up with the program, Jones — a blues musician — and folk musician Watroba noticed similarities in their music. They bring those similarities out during the program, showing how the same three chords and the same five notes can be found at the base of music ranging from slavery songs in the 1800s to music used by followers of Dr. Martin Luther King.

While the program was heavily influenced by music, Jones, who is also an artist, took some time to show how pictures can be used, with

their varying shades and colors, to tell a story, too.

"We are all influenced in one way or another by culture, by history," Jones said. "That's what we have in common."

Watroba noted music throughout the years helped foster an environment where his best friend — Jones — can be an African-American, something not possible decades ago.

"In our lifetime, a black man and a white man singing up here together would have been against the law," Watroba noted. "So when I celebrate Black History Month, it's because now I can have my best friend based on his character, and not on the color of his skin."

The students left impressed.

"It was fun listening to all the drums," said Charlotte Bruscato, a Miller Elementary fifth-grader. "I learned all people are equal, no matter what their race is."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-8899

## Canton academy honored for math programming

Canton Charter Academy is among 23 Michigan charter schools honored as "Academic State Champions" for their excellence in the classroom, earning recognition for everything from outstanding MEAP scores to high graduation rates. There are currently 255 charter schools in Michigan, educating about 115,000 students.

The honors were announced by Bridge Magazine, an online publication of the Center for Michigan, a non-partisan "think-and-do tank" created to help craft an agenda to move Michigan forward.

This is the first time that Academic State Champions have been crowned in Michigan. Bridge Magazine evaluated every charter school in the state based on their 2010-11 performance in eight academic areas: graduation rate; college readiness; fourth-grade math, writing and reading; and eighth-grade math, science and reading. The schools were also broken up into two socio-economic groups (based on the percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced lunches).

Canton Charter Academy, a K-8 school with 734 students, was honored for its eighth-grade math program.

The award came as something of a surprise to Canton Charter Academy staffers, who hadn't realized anyone was rating such performance.

"We were honored when we got the phone call and had the opportunity to talk about our practice," said Cathy Henkenberns, Canton Charter Academy's principal. "It was exciting for our staff to talk about what we do with our kids. It really comes down to our team approach with everything we do in the building around teaching and learning."

Dan Quisenberry, president of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, the state charter school association, called the recognition an "outstanding honor and well-deserved recognition."

"It's wonderful that Bridge Magazine came up with the Academic State Championship program, because it shines a spotlight on the quality education that students are receiving at charter schools throughout the state," Quisenberry said. "I'm sure that the parents at each of these schools are thankful they had the choice of sending their children there."

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## REZONING

Continued from page A1

dealership, nor any business that could be construed as adult entertainment. The conditions also included a building setback of at least 60 feet from the residential properties to the south, a 30-foot-wide berm with 8-foot evergreen trees to buffer the neighbors to the south, limitations on delivery hours and delivery truck idling, and the use of security features.

The conditions will be written into Grand/Sakwa's revised proposal, and Sakwa said he's open to more conditions.

Planning consultant Don Wortman said it would be the first city rezoning to come with binding, petitioner-requested conditions.

Grand/Sakwa representatives have also said a shopping center would likely generate enough traffic to warrant a traffic light on Sheldon, probably at Goldsmith, which it would pay to have installed.

Three residents spoke at Wednesday's planning meeting, with two saying the conditions aren't enough.

"I'm opposed to this rezoning no matter what the conditions are," said Ellen Elliott, executive director of the Friends

of the Penn Theatre and a booster of downtown Plymouth.

The Planning Commission's decision on the rezoning request will be a recommendation; the City Commission will have the final say.

Wall still at issue  
Clearly frustrated planning commissioners also postponed action on the Daisy Wall, the last remaining piece of the 1880s factory where Daisy Air Rifles were built for decades, for three more months.

The commission voted 8-1 to extend a temporary planned unit development for the uncompleted Daisy Square condominium project in hopes of giving the developer, Daisy Square residents and the Plymouth Preservation Network time to work out an agreement that would allow much of the wall to be preserved as part of a pavilion in a park setting.

Developer Joseph Freed & Associates had originally proposed incorporating the wall into a condominium building, but recently questioned its stability and has petitioned to raze it and use parts of it in a monument instead.

PPN members, however, are pushing for much of the wall to be saved and say they could raise an estimated \$250,000 to restore it and build a

small park around it.

Freed is now seeking to legally separate the wall parcel from the townhouse condominium portion of the property, and to have the PUD provision that it use the wall in a condominium building dropped. Rich Chylla, a Daisy Square resident representing townhouse owners, told planners the

homeowners association is close to getting approval from enough members to allow Freed to amend the PUD.

PPN president Wendy Harless said she has the pavilion project who are hesitant to write checks if there is a chance legal hurdles can't be overcome. City officials have

said they would accept city ownership of a park at the site under certain conditions, including a clean environmental bill of health.

Daisy Square was envisioned as a 159-condominium development when work began in 2003, but, hurt by the crash of the housing market, hasn't seen construc-

tion in several years. The project now has 66 completed townhouse condominiums and a building of 56 loft-style condos.

Meanwhile, Freed has been marketing the property to be completed by another developer.

Commissioner Joe Philips cast the lone no vote, saying he was frustrated by delays.



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# MDOT rolls out I-275 fix plans

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

Michigan Department of Transportation officials have rolled out an estimated \$36.8 million in bridge and road projects along the I-275 corridor that appear certain to frustrate motorists in Canton, Livonia, Plymouth and Van Buren townships, Westland and Romulus.

State and local officials say certain road closures, sometimes for months, are likely to snarl traffic and test the collective patience of western Wayne County drivers. But, they say the year-long effort is intended to boost safety, reduce roadway congestion and improve deteriorating bridges and roads.

"We will try to minimize the frustration," Gorette Yung, MDOT development engineer, said Thursday evening as state officials shared project details with local leaders and residents during an informal gathering inside Canton's Summit on the Park ballroom.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gorette Yung, P.E., an engineer with MDOT, speaks with Nader Judah, director of sales for Canton Area hotels, including Comfort Suites and Fairfield Inn.

The projects involve work on 34 bridges along the I-275 corridor from Hannan to Six Mile, a resurfacing of the inter-

state between Ford and Ecorse roads and adding a right-turn lane on westbound Michigan Avenue at northbound Haggerty to accommodate increased traffic near the Canton-based Michi-

gan Institute of Aviation Technology.

Yung confirmed closings of 12-16 weeks for the Warren Road bridge that crosses I-275, 10-12 weeks where Plymouth Road crosses the interstate and several-week shutdowns where Hannan, Palmer, Cherry Hill, Joy, Ann Arbor Trail and Tyler roads cross I-275.

### Bridge closing

Yung said other areas actually on I-275 will involve lane closings, though traffic should be maintained where the interstate crosses Van Born, Michigan Avenue, Ford Road, Koppernick, Ann Arbor Road, Six Mile and Hines.

Local officials worry that some road closings will dump more traffic on already-clogged Ford Road near I-275 — an area where Canton officials continue to lobby for still-elusive interchange

improvements to ease bottlenecks.

"It will put a lot of additional pressure on Ford Road," Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said. "That's the reality of it, but what can you do?"

Nonetheless, Faas and others welcomed news of area bridge and road improvements.

"We're certainly glad the repairs are being completed on the bridges," Canton Engineering Services Manager Bill Serchak said, "and we're glad for the rehabilitation projects."

### Long year

He, too, voiced concerns about road detours and shutdowns that are certain to make for a long construction year along the I-275 corridor.

Yung said the projects reflect MDOT's effort to maintain bridges and roads before repairs become more costly. State officials couldn't

provide a precise schedule of when the projects will happen.

Work crews will complete 34 bridge projects such as resurfacing decks and approaches, replacing rails and deck joints, painting beams and constructing paths between Hannan and Six Mile.

Though the schedule isn't known for repairs to bridges crossing I-275, road closings are expected to last four to six weeks on Hannan and Tyler; three to four weeks on Palmer, Cherry Hill and Joy; five to six weeks on Ann Arbor Trail; 10 to 12 weeks on Plymouth Road; and 12-16 weeks on Warren.

MDOT expects to maintain traffic, though some lanes will be closed, along I-275 where it crosses Van Born, Michigan Avenue, Ford Road, Koppernick, Ann Arbor Road, Hines and Six Mile.

Work crews also plan to resurface I-275 between Ford and Ecorse roads, though traffic should be maintained in both directions with reduced lanes.

Michael Budai, MDOT traffic and safety engineer, said efforts will be made to alternate the closings of roads in close proximity to each other.

"If we have Palmer closed, Michigan Avenue and Cherry Hill should be open," he said.

Nader Judah, sales director for the Comfort Suites and Fairfield Inn by Marriott near Haggerty and Ford in Canton, was among the few residents who turned out Thursday evening to ask questions about the projects. His said his concerns about possible road closings near the businesses he runs were addressed. "I feel pretty good about it," he said.

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## BIG BOY

Continued from page A1

Those businesses would be relocated to the 10,850 square feet of new space that would be attached to

the Kroger expansion.

Other businesses at the plaza, such as Aco Hardware, the Blockbuster video store, Solid Gold Jewellers and the Better Health store, would remain where they are now, plans show.

The 1998 consent judgment paved the way for an expansion of the Kroger store at that time.

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A recent scientific study showed chiropractic adjustments outperformed massage treatments in reducing pain. The study concluded that patients with chronic neck-back pain showed "clinically important improvements from a course of spinal manipulation... The current evidence does not support a similar level of benefit from massage." – J Manipulative Physiol Ther 2007



**Greg Kramer, D.C., D.A.A.M.L.P.**  
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In another study, comparing acupuncture, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, and spinal manipulation found, "After a median intervention period of 30 days, spinal manipulation was the only intervention that achieved statistically significant improvements." – J Manipulative Physiol Ther 1999

In addition to that, here's what some of the top medical researchers had to say... Chiropractor's manipulation of the spine was "more helpful than any of the following: traction, massage, biofeedback, acupuncture, injection of steroids into the spine and back corsets, and ultrasound." – Stanley Bigos, MD, Professor of Orthopedic Surgery

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# District adds academies to curriculum

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

A survey commissioned by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials told administrators a high number of respondents said better, more challenging programs would either keep them in the district or encourage them to move their children from outside schools.

So, this fall, PCCS officials will offer four academies to freshmen and sophomores interested in everything from science and engineering to an international program.

"(The academies) give us more options for our students," said Tim Schoenherr, the district's director of innovative programs. "We want to make the world bigger for our kids." Officials are responding to

numbers in the EPIC/MRA survey they commissioned to help them define ways to attract more students. Of the more than 400 respondents, some 14 percent said reasons for sending their children to non-Plymouth-Canton schools included the curriculum and the quality of the education.

The biggest response came from parents of students interested in an International Baccalaureate program. Some 94 percent of respondents said they'd at least consider PCCS if an IB program were offered; 50 percent of those said they'd "definitely" enroll if such a program existed.

Parents expressed interest in other academies, which PCCS will offer in September:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math): Some 93 percent of the respondents said they'd at least consider send-

ing their kids to PCCS schools if this academy was offered. Some 55 percent said they'd "definitely" enroll if this were offered; another 38 percent said they'd consider it.

The academy will partner with international businesses near the district and with Schoolcraft College.

• Business Academy: Some 77 percent (although only 27 percent were "definite" about it) like this idea. It's designed to prepare students for post-secondary opportunities in the business world. It'll include instruction in areas such as accounting, entrepreneurship, finance and marketing.

• Arts Academy: Some 75 percent (including 32 percent "definitely") answers like this idea. The academy will offer opportunities not only for students who would normally be part of

the current TAG program, but also offer chances for students — musicians, photographers, actors, painters, etc. who see the world from an artist's perspective.

"We don't want any of our students to be left out," Schoenherr said. "Each academy targets a specific group of kids. We're enhancing and creating options for students who have a strong interest in what these academies have to offer."

While targeting specific students with these academies, Schoenherr said the district isn't ignoring the needs of students not interested in any of the academies.

For instance, he said, all 19 of the current Advanced Placement programs, and perhaps new ones, will still be offered.

"(Academies) are just options for some kids," he said. "Our

curriculum is still rich with options. Our electives are not going away."

Schoenherr said the current debate about school closures and facility use won't affect the start-up of these academies, because they're all at the high school level. He also said the academies won't cost teachers jobs; in fact, he said, officials are asking teachers now if they're interested in teaching any of the academy courses. He said nearly two dozen teachers have expressed such an interest.

He said the district wants the academies up and running for September 2012, acknowledging it's an ambitious schedule.

"We've got some work to do academically and logistically," Schoenherr said. "It's aggressive, but we're moving forward."

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## VALENTINE'S

Continued from page A1

Pandora charm bracelets with beads that symbolize love or friendship are especially popular at this time of year, Robin said.

Robin said jewelry can be surprisingly affordable (her store currently has a special on diamond earrings of 14-karat gold) for Valentine's Day, with sterling silver pieces starting at around \$10.

Engagement rings are also popular in mid-February, she said. "It's a fairly big time that men come shopping for engagement rings," Robin said.

### Date-night tattoos

For couples interested in another kind of

body decoration, My Little Needle in Plymouth offers a seasonal special on his and her tattoos.

It's become more common for couples to come in and get individual tattoos at the same time than for people to get a tattoo of a loved one's name, said My Little Needle owner Trish Horstman, whose shop is on Amelia in Old Village.

In fact, Horstman said, she tries to steer customers toward something more symbolic when they come in and want someone's name emblazoned on themselves.

"There's a little bit of stigma that follows that now," she said.

One couple recently took advantage of the special on a night out, getting more personalized tattoos — stars on the top of the foot for her, a Michigan State University Spartans football helmet on the arm for him, Horstman said.

"They didn't get lovey tattoos. They made a date night out of it," she said.

Couples are also making dates at the LaVida Massage Centers in Plymouth Township (on Sheldon Road) and Canton (on Ford Road); both places are almost fully

booked for couples massages through Tuesday, Mark Davis, who owns both places, said Friday. "We probably still have a few openings left, but we pretty much have started a waiting list," he said.

LaVida, a national chain based in Commerce Township, specializes in therapeutic massage and also offers body wraps, body scrubs and facials. In couples massages, each person has an individual massage therapist in the same room; prices start at \$39.95 for an hour-long session.

### 'Affordable luxury'

Davis said LaVida does brisk business around Valentine's Day in gift cards and with people who are buying massages for others.

"They want to give somebody a break," he said. "With the economy the way it is, people are under stress, pressure, and it's a nice gift. ... It's affordable luxury."

At Canton's Holiday Market, at Cherry Hill and Lilley, manager Diane Mackey said flower bouquets and specialty candies, such as Godiva

chocolates and Sanders products, are seasonal staples, but the store is also popular with men who want to prepare Valentine's Day dinner for their wives or girlfriends.

"A lot of guys are doing their own meals," Mackey said, buying steaks and bottles of red wine and kitchen to take over the kitchen for the evening.

And for those who haven't quite planned that far ahead?

"You can never go wrong with a box of chocolates and flowers," Mackey said.

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THE WOMAN IN BLACK (PG-13)  
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:35  
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

BIG MIRACLE (PG)  
11:35, 1:55, 4:25, 6:45, 9:10  
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

CHRONICLE (PG-13)  
FRI-MON/WED/TH 12:40, 3:00, 5:15, 7:40, 9:50 FRI/SAT LS 11:50  
TUE 12:40, 3:00, 5:15, 9:50

ONE FOR THE MONEY (PG-13)  
FRI/SUN-TH 12:30, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20 SAT 7:10, 9:20

MAN ON A LEDGE (PG-13)  
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

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# Study that 1099 for accuracy

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** Dear Rick: I heard that people were getting 1099s for frequent flyer miles that they received. I get frequent flyer miles based on my purchases. Do I have to pay taxes on frequent flyer miles? And, if they are not taxable, what happens if I receive a 1099?

**A:** First of all, just to ease your mind, frequent flyer miles are not subject to income tax. When you receive frequent flyer miles, they are not treated as income rather as rebates on spending. Therefore, they are not subject to income tax. You should not receive a 1099.

If a 1099 is issued in error, there are a couple ways to resolve the issue. The first is to contact the company that issued the 1099 and have them issue an amended 1099. This is very common and won't



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

raise a red flag with the IRS. On the other hand, if they will not issue an amended or corrected 1099, you need to

attach a schedule to your tax return with an explanation as to why you are not reporting the income as indicated on the 1099. The mistake would be to ignore the 1099. It's always important to remember that when a 1099 is issued, not only do you, the taxpayer, receive a copy, the Internal Revenue Service also receives one. Therefore, since the IRS receives a copy, if you don't report the income or do not attach an explanation as to why

the amount is not being reported, you can rest assured that the IRS will send you a bill.

It's just not 1099s that are sometimes issued in error, but also other tax forms such as a W-2 and K1. I cannot stress enough how important it is to review each tax document you receive for accuracy. If there is a mistake, you need to take steps to correct it. If you ignore the mistake, the IRS won't.

Regarding the issue of 1099s for frequent flyer miles, I did some investigating and I did locate the story referred to above. The story dealt with Citibank who had given frequent flyer miles as a reward for opening checking and savings accounts. When you open a checking or savings account you are not spending money therefore, the receipt of frequent flyer miles can-

not be treated as a rebate. Under tax laws, in a situation such as this, that money is taxable to you.

One last important note. Because of changes in reporting rules, it is possible that you may receive 1099s for things that you never did in the past. Remember, if you receive a 1099 that means the IRS has also received it. It is always important to be aware of what our tax laws are and if you receive something of value from an institution such as a bank, it always pays to inquire about the tax consequences ahead of time so you're not caught by surprise. Good luck!

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



The 'Night FOR the Museum' fundraiser features a ride in a 1930 Packard with Margaret Dunning.

## Auction items highlight museum's fundraiser

Where is the only place you have the opportunity to win a ride in a beautiful, luxurious 1930 Packard driven by 101-year-old Margaret Dunning? It's the Plymouth Historical Museum's annual auction fundraiser, "A Night FOR the Museum," set for Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Fox Hills Fox Classic.

Highlights of the more than 80 items include a lady's Wittnauer watch valued at \$500 from Delta Diamond Setters of Plymouth, tickets for a concert at the Colosseum at Caesars Windsor, one-year World Deluxe membership to Ancestry.com, golf and dine at Fox Hills, and tickets to the Henry Ford.

In addition to the live

auction and raffles, diners will be entertained with a rollicking performance of harmonized voices by the vocal group Simply Dickens. The ticket price of \$75 per person includes appetizers, a plated gourmet dinner, and dessert; a cash bar will also be available. Tickets can be purchased at the Museum during open hours or online at [http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events/A-Night-FOR-the-Museum\\_ET118.html?SortBox=201202](http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events/A-Night-FOR-the-Museum_ET118.html?SortBox=201202) using PayPal.

Doors open at 6 p.m. at the Fox Classic at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, west of Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 455-8940.

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE**

To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: [www.plymouthtp.org](http://www.plymouthtp.org). They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates: January 10, February 7, March 6 & 20, April 17, May 8 & 22, June 12

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Joe Bridgman, MMC  
Township Clerk

Publish: February 12 and 16, 2012 0808788012 2x2

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY MARCH 1, 2012 6:00 P.M.**

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2012 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

- o Application 1488, 40522 Ann Arbor Trail, Trade Vine Market: The applicant is in a C-1 zoning district and is requesting two variances, the first is for a panel wall sign and the second is for a wall sign on a mansard roof.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department 734 354-3210.

Publish: February 12, 2012 0808787707 2x2.5

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN**

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT MASTER PLAN WORKSHOP NOTICE**

**PLYMOUTH CULTURAL CENTER 525 FARMER STREET**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.**

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department will be holding a Public Input Workshop to gather information for the 2012 - 2016 City of Plymouth Recreation Master Plan on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The submission of a Recreation Master Plan is required by the State of Michigan as a prerequisite to be eligible for any possible grant funding.

Public input would include suggestions for any possible future recreational projects, programming and facility development.

All interested persons are encouraged and invited to attend.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, the City 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 the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator at 734-453-1234, ext. 206.

Steve Anderson  
Recreation Director

Publish: February 12, 2012 0808788012 2x2

\*Our Surcharges (incl. Fed. Univ. Svc. of 17.9% of interstate & int'l telecom charges (varies quarterly), 16¢ Regulatory & 99¢ Administrative/line/mo. & others by area) are not taxes (details: 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes & our surcharges could add 7% - 41% to your bill. Activation fee/line: \$35. IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Cust. Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$350 early termination fee/line & add'l charges for extra minutes, data sent/received & device capabilities. Offers & coverage, varying by svc, not available everywhere; see [vzw.com](http://vzw.com). Limited-time offer. Restocking fee may apply. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 wks & expires in 12 months. Add'l CA eWaste fee may apply. LTE is a trademark of ETSI. 4G LTE is available in 195 cities in the U.S. DROID is a trademark of Lucasfilm Ltd. and its related companies. Used under license. Double your data applies to data paks 2 GB or higher. © 2012 Verizon Wireless. MVLVD



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# Returning veterans get educational opportunities at Schoolcraft

By Julie Brown  
Observer Staff Writer

Lawrence Smith, 48, of Canton is a Detroit police officer. He enrolled at Schoolcraft College for his associate's degree, and is continuing coursework with plans for a bachelor's degree in public safety from Eastern Michigan University.

Smith is among those receiving Post 9/11 Bill benefits through the federal government via Schoolcraft.

"She's wonderful," he said of Pam Paxton-Keehner of Plymouth Township, Veterans Services coordinator at Schoolcraft. "It's been wonderful for me. She even answers her e-mails. I have no complaints about Schoolcraft College. The things you can get from here are unbelievable."

## Work and study

He's been able to work full time as a policeman and study part time with enough credit hours to earn housing assistance. Smith was encouraged by his wife, who's also former military, and started at Schoolcraft in 2009 with the first Post 9/11 Bill enrollees.

He appreciates not having to pay at the time of registration, with Paxton-Keehner and a colleague of hers dealing with the paperwork. Smith earned a Schoolcraft associate's degree with honors.

He was in the Army, most recently as a sergeant first class, from 1983 to 2005. He served in Germany, Japan and Egypt.

"I think it was a chal-



A new group for veterans has begun to meet 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of the month at Schoolcraft College's McDowell Center. Pam Paxton-Keehner (not shown) is the Veterans Services coordinator.

lenge," he said of going back to school. "It was actually a smooth transition."

The military gives those leaving information on education, he said, and both the VA and Paxton-Keehner had the information. "Not having to pay those financials makes it a smooth transition," he said.

Paxton-Keehner was able to work around his schedule, and Smith keeps his police work and study time separate. "I sit up front with the older people" in class, he said.

He agreed life experience made his schooling different from a late teens enrollee. Smith applies what he's learning to the course syllabus, and knows what's expected. His faculty experiences have been nearly all

positive.

The couple's youngest son has been motivated to better grades by dad. "It's almost like a challenge," Smith said. "He gets mad when he gets a B-."

## Enrollment to climb

Paxton-Keehner started in Schoolcraft admissions and then moved to counseling as an academic adviser. She now works with the veterans, some 225-250 a semester, including dependents, out of enrollment of around 13,000 on the Livonia and Garden City campuses.

"Maybe they're older guys from Vietnam," she said. Schoolcraft only recently began to ask about veteran status, so numbers are approximate.

There's a Montgomery GI Bill for educa-



Lawrence Smith of Canton, a Detroit police officer, appreciates the help he's received from Pam Paxton-Keehner, Veterans Services coordinator at Schoolcraft College. She advises a number of returning veterans at Schoolcraft about their educational benefits from military service.

tional benefits, which is older but has continued with modifications. Students really need to do the math, she said, to see which plan is best for them.

The Post 9/11 Bill gives a stipend for books and

supplies, a housing allowance and money for tuition and fees.

Paxton-Keehner has a colleague who works part time and does data entry for students through the VA.

Schoolcraft's unique

among community colleges, she said, in having dedicated staff for veterans.

Those leaving the military have an orientation, she said, and the VA has a good website. Some veterans face readjustment issues to civilian life as they return to school.

"Most of them are very aware there's this benefit out there for them," she said. Students can retake a course once if they struggled with it: "Math is pretty common. That's a tough one for most people."

Several children of service personnel are using educational benefits at Schoolcraft, including children of parents who've completed school earlier. Spouses are also eligible in some cases.

Information's available from Paxton-Keehner, (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5346.

## 'Good opportunity'

"I just think it's such an opportunity for them to get education," she said. Some young men aren't good students in high school but return later with more motivation.

"It's almost like a second chance," she said. "The service turned them into men."

There's a new group for veterans that meets in Schoolcraft's McDowell Center 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of the month. Paxton-Keehner expects to be busy with more veterans coming home from overseas.

"With bringing them all home, we expect to see more," she said. Army veteran Smith wants to welcome all service personnel home.

"America really needs to embrace the soldiers because they sacrificed a lot," he said.

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## Chili cook-off to benefit Tail Waggers's 1990

Calling all chili lovers! Do you, or someone you know, have the best-tasting chili in town? If so, Tail Waggers's 1990 is inviting you to participate in Chili, Hoops and Hounds, a fun-filled, chili cook-off to benefit the many programs of their local 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

Chili, Hoops and Hounds will be held 1-5 p.m. Sunday, March 31, at UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Participants can enter the competition for \$30 and receive a signature Chili, Hoops and Hounds apron along with a chance at the grand prizes in these categories:

Best Tasting Chili, Best Table Decoration and the People's Choice Award. All registrations must be received no later than March 15.

The public is invited to come out and enjoy a variety of chili samples for \$1 each or an all-you-can-eat wristband for \$15. All guests will have a chance to vote in the People's Choice Award. French bread is also included to complete the meal along with soft drinks for purchase.

The family-fun event will also feature an inflatable, interactive basketball challenge, face-painting, magic, entertainment and more.

Registration form and checks made payable to Tail Waggers's 1990 can be mailed to: Tail Waggers's 1990, 28402 Five Mile Road, Livonia 48154. Participants can print a registration form from the website at [www.tailwaggers1990.org](http://www.tailwaggers1990.org), request a form via email at [tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com](mailto:tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com) or contact the office directly at (734) 560-4660.

Tail Waggers's 1990 is committed to helping people help animals by supporting dedicated pet owners in need of assistance along with providing necessary funding for those animals in emergency situations.

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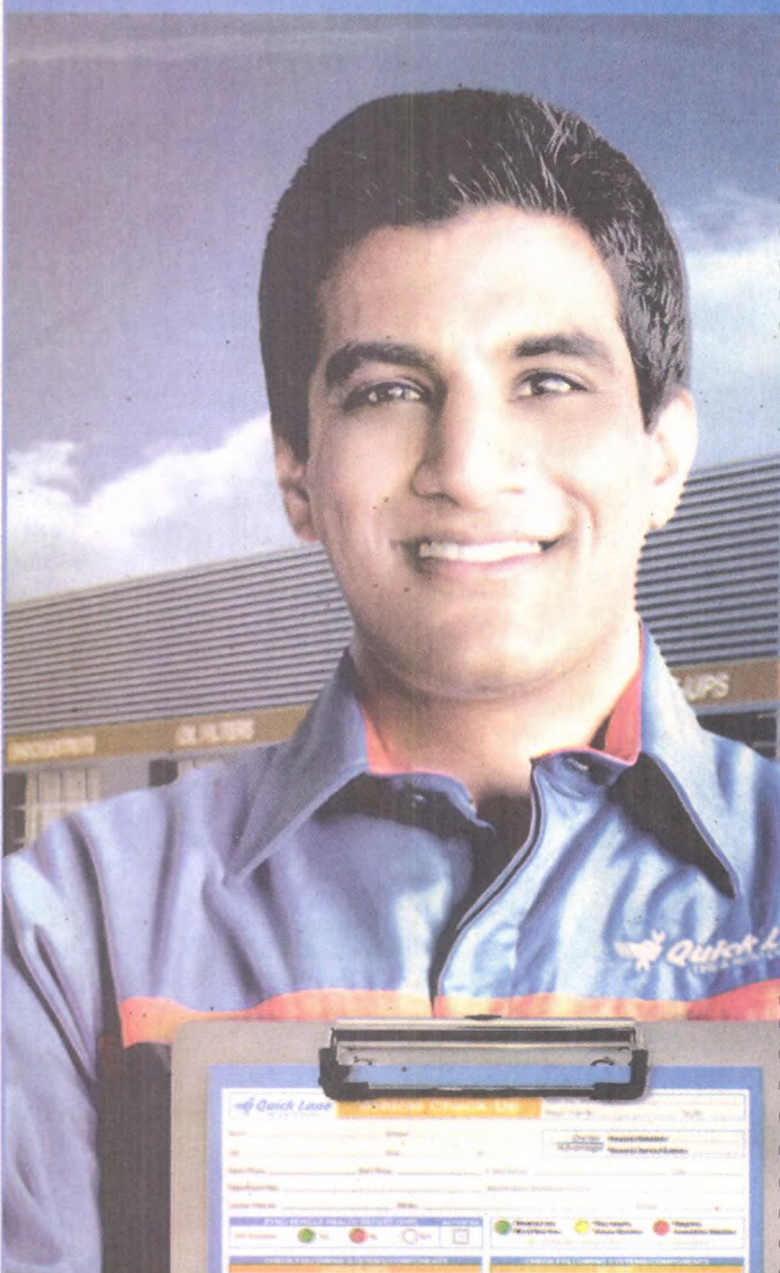
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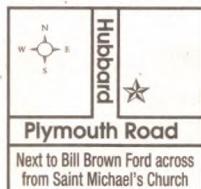
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Actual Testimonial from Kimmy K., Dearborn Heights, MI

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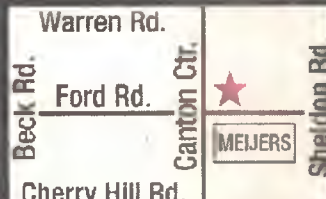


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# SPORTS

## Glenn surge sinks 'Cats

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Through 10 events Thursday night, Plymouth's varsity boys swim team maintained an 81-75 lead over KLAAs South Division-leading Westland John Glenn.

Adding to the scene at Canton High School, Plymouth senior Adam Liakos broke his own record in the 50-yard free-style.



Liakos

But then the Rocks' exceptional team depth came to the fore, outmanning the Wildcats in the 100-yard breast-stroke and 400-yard free-style relay. Glenn rallied for a 96-90 victory to clinch the division with a 5-0 record.

Had Plymouth hung on to the lead, there would have been a three-way tie (with Canton) at the top of the standings at the end of the dual meet schedule.

In the 400 relay, the team of Brad Alholinna, John Kukulka, Cody Hodges and Joey Wakeford grabbed eight points with a time of 3:39.12.

Glenn also finished second, good for four points. The tandem of Josh Farrow, Aaron Alholinna, Jake Ferguson and Josh Ferguson finished in 3:40.07.

Plymouth head coach Doug Schade said the fact the Wildcats (3-2)

Please see SWIM, B2



RENA LAVERTY

Players with regional ties help keep the Plymouth Whalers' motor running. From left are captain Beau Schmitz, Austin Levi and Alex Aleardi. Schmitz hails from Howell, while Levi and Aleardi have links to Farmington Hills.

## Local-motion

Whalers go extra mile for fans, communities they grew up in

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Ontario Hockey League teams often are international melting pots, with players from all over the globe.

With Alex Aleardi, Austin Levi and Beau Schmitz of the Plymouth Whalers, there's a definite local flavor that enhances camaraderie inside their locker room at Compuware Arena and out in the community.

"It's a tough transition coming from Europe like (Rickard) Rakell and (Dario) Trutmann," said defenseman Austin Levi, a Canton resident who lived in Farmington Hills for several years before and during his four-year stint with the Whalers. "When they first came here they didn't know much English. But all the guys help them with that."

Chiming in was team captain Schmitz, a defenseman who grew up in Howell and now lives with a billet family in Novi.

"I mean, when I get home-

sick I got a 35- or 40-minute drive," Schmitz said. "But yeah, playing with different guys from all over, you make a lot of friends, you learn a lot about other places. It's good."

### Home grown

Meanwhile, if any of the European players want to know more about the Observerland region where the Whalers draw many fans from, they have ready-made tour guides. Because of their roots, those players, including high-scoring forward Aleardi (who grew up in Farmington Hills and now attends business classes at Schoolcraft College), also understand the importance of giving back to the community itself.

Aleardi marched in the 2011 Farmington Founders Day Parade, for starters.

"I got 'Shooter' (Whalers team mascot) next to me and I was sitting with the Farmington Hills hockey team," Aleardi recalled. "So it was a good time. It was fun. I got to

hand out stickers, sign autographs for all the kids. ... I've always been a community-based guy."

The dedication of Aleardi, Levi and Schmitz is pointed to with pride by Denise Ronayne, the team's director of sales and marketing.

"Those three are just particularly great kids," Ronayne said. "I think because they grew up in these rinks. It's not that far from where they started."

"For them, it's almost more that they really get how much they affect these kids. Because they're going to the same rinks they skated at."

### Time to give

Players fill in the gaps in their weekly planner with various events and appearances, strengthening the Whalers' bond with those who cheer them on.

"We visit many different schools, we do practices, we go to Coldstone Ice Cream

Please see WHALERS, B4

## Rocks eke out title with win

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Veteran Salem boys basketball coach Bob Brodie couldn't help but shrug after the Rocks hung on Friday night for a 35-32 victory over South Lyon.

"Both teams looked like they didn't want any victory out there," Brodie said. "They were missing shots galore, and we struggled on offense, too."

With the win, Salem (14-2 overall, 8-2 in the KLAAs Central) clinched its first division since 2001-02.

But had the visiting Lions (9-5, 6-3) come away with a win, they would have earned a co-championship with the Rocks.

"They had nothing to lose, they were playing for a championship and they had opportunities," Brodie said. "They were all over us defensively."

The final minutes were excruciating for the Rocks, seeing a 27-20 lead at the start of the fourth quarter vanishing point by point.

Joe Remstad's trey made it a 33-30 Salem lead with 1:45 to play in regulation and the Lions followed that up with two free throws by Derek Talaga.

Following a Salem miss (the Rocks made just 15-of-42 from the floor), South Lyon had the ball with 27 seconds remaining and a chance to take the lead.

### Close call

Remstad (10 points) drove through the paint, but his layup (with about

Please see ROCKS, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Kevin Mack (No. 11) takes South Lyon's Bill Harrison off the dribble.

## Wildcats nab D1 district title

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

A spectacular reversal by Plymouth wrestler Chase Kallil keyed the host Wildcats' 43-32 victory over Salem in Wednesday's individual Division 1 team districts.

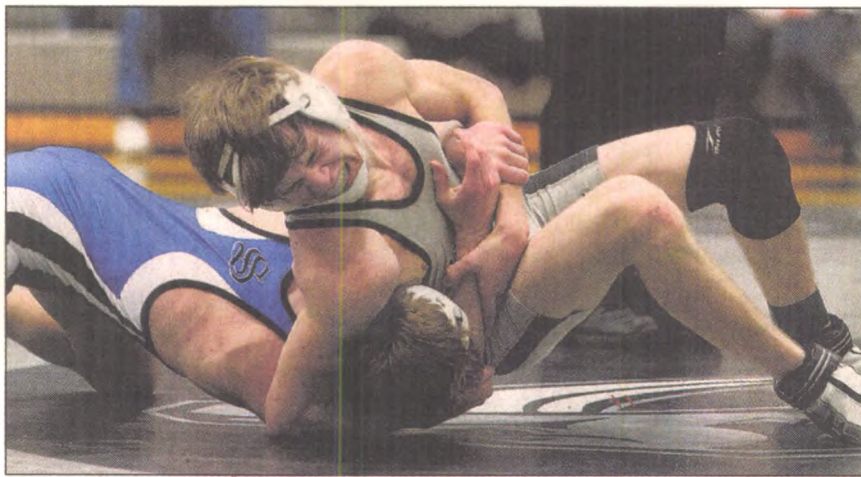
The win gave Plymouth its first D1 district title, although in 2005 the Wildcats won the D2 crown despite not having a senior class.

**TEAM DISTRICTS** Plymouth now takes part in the team regionals, set for Wednesday at Garden City.

Meanwhile, Salem nipped Canton 33-32 to reach the district final.

"Overall it was a good competitive night for the three Park schools," Salem head coach Pete Israel said.

"All the duals were determined by one match. I knew people might have thought we were the underdogs but I think they were surprised to see us beat Canton and then come down to one match for the district title.



JOHN KEMSKI

Plymouth's Chase Kallil (right) and Salem's Cody Korpbus battle it out in the pivotal bout at 125.

"Everyone really stepped up in both matches by either pinning where we could, getting majors and avoiding getting pinned."

### Turnaround

For the most part, that is.

According to Wildcats head coach Quinn Guernsey, the Rocks were up by a point entering the final two bouts.

At 125, Salem's Cody Korpbus

Please see WRESTLING, B3

## NATIONAL SIGNING DAY — PART 3

### Colleges reward Canton kickers

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

To the victors go the college scholarships.

Three months after Canton won the Division 1 boys soccer championship, five members of that team landed with colleges on National Sign-

ing Day.

Heading the list is defender Connor Furgason, taking his skills to Western Michigan University, a D1 college in the NCAA.

"It's a great accomplishment, this is a great year for all of

Please see SIGN, B2



Furgason



Posuniak



Winningham



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# Many contribute to big Canton win

Seven players scored at least six points Friday night as Canton's varsity girls basketball team routed host Livonia Franklin, 63-15.

Canton (13-3, 8-2 in the KLAA South Division) started strong, leading 18-4 after the first quarter.

The onslaught was on full-blast by the time halftime arrived, as the Chiefs enjoyed a 33-8 advantage.

Kiera Schneider led

the Chiefs with 10 points, with Paige Aresco contributing nine points, five rebounds and three steals.

Others helping the cause included Taylor Hunley (eight points, five boards), Rachel Winters (eight points, four boards, five steals), Robyn Mack, Kayla Lagola and Shannon Perry (six points each).

"It was a great team effort," Canton head coach Brian Samuls-

ki said. "It's always good when all the players score. (And) I thought our defense and rebounding was solid."

Franklin dropped to 0-15 overall and 0-10 in the division.

**JOHN GLENN 51, PLYMOUTH 23:** On Friday night against KLAA South Division leader Westland John Glenn, the zone defense of the Rockets gave Plymouth fits from the start.

"We just couldn't score, we had a hard time handling their pressure," Plymouth coach Bob de Bear said.

Turnovers also didn't help the Wildcats, now 10-6 overall and 6-4 in the division.

Scoring 10 points for Plymouth was Jada Woody. John Glenn improved to 14-2 overall and 10-0 in the KLAA South.

**SOUTH LYON 42, SALEM 29:** After leading 13-11 at halftime, visiting Salem could not hold off South Lyon in this KLAA Central Division matchup. Registering a double-double for the Rocks (3-13, 2-8) was junior Breanne Beaver, with 13 points and 11 rebounds. Seniors Bri Berberet and Katelynn Krause added seven and five points, respectively.

## SIGN

Continued from page B1

us," said Furgason, during a late afternoon press conference on Feb. 1 at Canton High School. "I've been friends with these guys for a long time now and the fact I get to celebrate this day with all four of them, it's a great feeling."

Furgason added that he decided to go to Western "because my dad (Bill) went there. I wanted to keep up the family tradition. And I just love the campus there and everything about what the team is about."

### Buddy system

Headed to Saginaw Valley State University (D2) will be defender Tyler Winningham and forward Mitch Posuniak — where they will keep their lifelong friendship alive.

Forward Mitch Pepper (Aquinas College) and goalkeeper/defender Steven Murphy (Spring Arbor University) are headed to D2 competition in the NAIA.

"Me and Tyler have been playing soccer together since we were really, really little," Posuniak said. "Just this past summer it just worked out that we were both interested in Saginaw Valley and we decided to continue playing soccer with them."

"We're going to room together and everything. We're really good friends, I'm happy about that."

Canton head coach George Tomasso, who went from high school to college during his own playing career, said the scholarships are the caper to an unforgettable season.

"It was a special year," Tomasso said. "All these kids that have signed today have taken a tremendous amount of pride in their development and to play beyond high school."

### Peak performance

Tomasso added that the players' skill and confidence were crucial to Canton's title (earned in a 1-0 win against Grand Haven) and to their quest to keep on playing in college.

"What these boys achieved, they're the only ones in the state to do it for their division," the former



JOHN KEMSKI

National Signing Day on Feb. 1 gave members of the Division 1 state champion Canton varsity boys soccer team another reason to cheer. From left are Mitch Posuniak, Steven Murphy, Connor Furgason, Tyler Winningham, Mitch Pepper and head coach George Tomasso. All of the players were joined for the big day by parents, other family members and friends.

goaltender said. "All these boys going on and playing just shows they've put a lot of dedication and pride into playing this sport."

The players agreed that the high standards of the Canton soccer program did not hamper their chances of garnering a college spot.

"We worked hard all season long and we were successful," Winningham said. "And I think this program just prepares us to go into college."

"George as a coach prepares us to move on to college and become better players and help the colleges do better. We can all take what we learned here."

### Perfect fit

Pepper said he chose Aquinas after a chance meeting with the soccer team.

"I visited Aquinas and it just so happened that soccer team had a practice on the same day," Pepper said. "So I visited the campus, I loved it, and afterwards I got to practice with the team and they're just a great group of guys. Everything just fell into place after that."

He'll make the local rounds facing Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic

Conference teams such as Madonna University and Concordia University.

Murphy will start his Spring Arbor career at defense instead of goalie, which he played at Canton.

"I've been playing my whole life and it's always been a dream to play college soccer," Murphy said. "National Signing Day is really cool to be here with all my teammates and friends and sign, and get it done."

And Murphy echoed what others said about so many of Canton's soccer players moving upward.

"We got five guys doing it today and we have several other seniors and every one could sign potentially," Murphy emphasized. "It just says a lot about the program, how talented it is and how much depth we had this season."

**GENRICH SIGNS:** Meanwhile, another Plymouth-Canton Educational Park soccer player signed to play in college, but could not attend the Feb. 1 festivities.

Salem senior defender Jake Genrich received a scholarship to play D1 soccer at Bowling Green State University.

tsmith@hometownlife.com | (734) 469-4128



Plymouth's Adam Liakos splashes way to first-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly Thursday night. Earlier in the meet, Liakos also set a new school record in the 50 free.

## SWIM

Continued from page B1

were in the mix against the deeper, more-experienced Rockets was a definite plus.

"We've certainly improved, we're averaging about 25 best times a meet, our divers have really improved," Schade said. "I really didn't think at the beginning of the season that we were going to be able to compete in this meet. And we are."

### New record

The close defeat didn't dampen Plymouth's "Senior Night" as Liakos — one of the six honored Wildcats — had a stellar performance.

Liakos broke his own school record in the 50 free, with a time of 22.97. Last year, he set the mark

at 23.81.

"It was the first time I've been under 23 (seconds) my whole entire life, so I was real happy with it," Liakos said. "I've been working really hard all year so I was real happy to get that time."

Liakos also won the 100 butterfly (56.50) and was part of the victorious 200 medley and 200 free relay teams with Cameron Earls, Johnson, Todd Maslyk and Alex Wilson.

Maslyk was the first-place finisher in the 100 breaststroke (1:10.84), with the only other Plymouth first registered in diving by Connor McManus (181.60 points).

Mike Pool, Garrett Neumann, Nick Eiben and Will Harrington also were part of the Senior Night festivities.

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## BOYS SWIM RESULTS

### DUAL MEET RESULTS JOHN GLENN 96 PLYMOUTH 90

**Feb. 9 at W.L. Central**  
**200-yard medley relay:** 1. Plymouth (Cameron Earls, Todd Maslyk, Adam Liakos, Alex Wilson), 1:47.77; 2. Westland John Glenn (Joey Wakeford, Nick Stevens, Josh Wakeford, Dave Vader), 1:48.85; 3. Plymouth (Ben Yang, Nick Weber, Ryan Heinze, Mike Pool), 1:55.17.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Jake Ferguson (JG), 1:56.75; 2. Aaron Alholinna (JG), 2:07.08; 3. Brad Alholinna (JG), 2:07.62; 4. Andrew Harris (P), 2:18.98; 5. Tyler Kasimierczuk (P), 2:28.06.

**200 individual medley:** 1. Josh Wakeford (JG), 2:11.59; 2. Yang (P), 2:22.03; 3. Alex Johnson (P), 2:25.34; 4. Ryan Heinze (P), 2:25.50; 5. Tim Moran (JG), 2:27.69.

**50 freestyle:** 1. Liakos (P), 22.97; 2. Vader (JG), 24.35; 3. Maslyk (P), 24.82; 4. Nick Stone (JG), 24.99; 5. Cody Hodges (JG), 25.18.

**1-meter diving:** 1. Connor McManus (P), 181.60 points; 2. Ainsworth Orr (JG), 175.95; 3. William Harrington (P), 138.95; 4. Garrett Neumann (P), 109.15; 5. John Reid (JG), 93.90.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Liakos (P), 56.50; 2. Josh Wakeford (JG), 59.30; 3. Heinze (P), 1:04.42; 4. Johnson (P), 1:04.45; 5. Jacob Burcicki (JG), 1:08.59.

**100 freestyle:** 1. Joey Wakeford (JG), 51.20; 2. Earls (P), 53.11; 3. Vader (JG), 54.25; 4. Wilson (P), 54.71; 5. Hodges (JG), 54.79.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Ferguson (JG), 5:20.10; 2. Weber (P), 5:30.70; 3. A. Alholinna (JG), 5:41.71; 4. Yang (P), 5:42.74; 5. B. Alholinna (JG), 5:52.65.

**200-yard freestyle relay:** 1. Plymouth (Earls, Wilson, Maslyk, Liakos), 1:36.76; 2. John Glenn (Vader, Hodges, Nick Stone, Ferguson), 1:38.87; 3. John Glenn (Josh Farrough, Stevens, A. Alholinna, Chris Sabal), 1:46.68.

**100 backstroke:** 1. Joey Wakeford (JG), 57.53; 2. Earls (P), 1:02.13; 3. Weber (P), 1:04.92; 4. John Kukulka (JG), 1:09.94; 5. Harris (P), 1:15.98.

**100 breaststroke:** 1. Maslyk (P), 1:10.84; 2. Stevens (JG), 1:13.88; 3. Tim Moran (JG), 1:15.44; 4. Stone (JG), 1:20.28; 5. Gunnar Savalo (P), 1:21.46.

**400-yard freestyle relay:** 1. John Glenn (B. Alholinna, Kukulka, Hodges, Joey Wakeford), 3:39.12; 2. John Glenn (Farrough, A. Alholinna, Ferguson,

Josh Wakeford), 3:40.07; 3. Plymouth (Weber, Johnson, Wilson, Pool), 3:45.84.

**Team records:** Westland John Glenn, 5-0 KLAA South Division; Plymouth, 3-2, KLAA South.

### DUAL MEET RESULTS SALEM 100 WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 86

**Feb. 2 at W.L. Central**  
**200-yard medley relay:** 1. Salem (Jeremy Wellman, Turner Solterman, Jason Zhang, Jason Basanese), 1:45.84; 2. Walled Lake Central, 1:50.05; 4. Salem (Patrick Casey, Stephen Pietron, Patrick Huls, Kenny McManimon), 1:58.20; 5. Salem (Brenden Wellman, Calvin Kahler, William Long, Alex Smith), 1:58.62.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Jack Kennedy (WLC), 1:51.28; 2. Jerry Bai (S), 1:57.61; 3. Matthew Pairitz (S), 1:58.46; 5. Brian Kuang (S), 2:01.56.

**200 individual medley:** 1. Stephen Lee (WLC), 2:06.50; 2. Solterman (S), 2:12.01; 3. Smaran Bhaktawara (S), 2:15.17; 5. Danny Lynch (S), 2:21.66.

**50 freestyle:** 1. J. Zhang (S), 22.81; 3. McManimon (S), 24.90; 5. Basanese (S), 25.04.

**1-meter diving:** 1. Charlie Dillon (S), 235.85 points; 2. Nick Griwicki (S), 230.95; 5. Casey (S), 99.85.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Kennedy (WLC), 57.33; 2. J. Wellman (S), 58.37; 3. Lynch (S), 1:03.81; 4. Huls (S), 1:04.98.

**100 freestyle:** 1. Jason Shaffer (WLC), 52.15; 2. Bai (S), 53.06; 3. Pairitz (S), 53.75; 4. Basanese (S), 55.06.

**500 freestyle:** 1. J. Zhang (S), 5:04.68; 4. B. Kuang (S), 5:26.40; 6. Casey (S), 5:51.06.

**200-yard freestyle relay:** 1. Walled Lake Central, 1:36.75; 2. Salem (Pairitz, Bhaktawara, Basanese, Bai), 1:36.94; 3. Salem (Long, Smith, McManimon, Lynch), 1:39.99; 5. Salem (Kahler, Roger Xia, Gregory Payne, Sahil Rafai), 1:50.11.

**100 backstroke:** 1. David Drees (WLC), 58.97; 2. J. Wellman (S), 1:00.80; 4. Huls (S), 1:05.01; 6. B. Wellman (S), 1:10.14.

**100 breaststroke:** 1. Stephen Lee (WLC), 1:02.62; 2. Solterman (S), 1:07.08; 4. Bhaktawara (S), 1:10.01; 5. Pietron (S), 1:13.94.

**400-yard freestyle relay:** 1. Salem (J. Zhang, Pairitz, J. Wellman, Bai), 3:29.76; 2. Walled Lake Central, 3:30.33; 3. Salem (Lynch, Michael SanMillan, Bhaktawara, Solterman), 3:43.59; 5. Salem (Smith, Russell Sharpe, William Lu, Jacob Rossetti), 4:10.57.

## Record-breaking night for Chiefs

Canton gymnastics records were the theme Thursday against host Livonia Blue at Livonia Churchill.

The Chiefs (10-0) shattered the team mark for points with a 149.1-137.8 victory.

In addition, Ayana Lewis scored a 9.9 on uneven parallel bars to win the event and, in turn, break the short-lived mark set earlier in the match by teammate Jocelyn Moraw (9.7).

Three gymnasts scored above the 37-point mark in all-around scoring, including Melissa Green (37.25), Moraw (37.125) and Lewis (37.1). Surpassing 36 points were Erica

### GYMNASTICS

Lucas (36.125) and Nicole Lasecki (36.025).

Lucas and Lewis tied for first on vault with scores of 9.45 while Green's 9.4 on balance beam took second behind Blue's Alex Kitz (9.55). On floor, Lasecki and Green finished 1-2 with 9.325 and 9.25, respectively.

"It was an exceptional night where everyone was on and mistakes were minimal," Canton head coach John Cunningham said. "We can see areas to improve and hopefully carry this success over to the KLAA and MHSAA meets in the next month."



### CITY OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS AND ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS AND THE RIGHT OF REFERENDUM RELATING THERETO

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Plymouth, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, (the "City"), intends to issue and sell its capital improvement and refunding bonds pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed Three Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,900,000). The bonds are being issued for the purpose of paying all or part of the cost of acquiring and constructing parking improvements in the City, including demolition and site improvements, together with all appurtenances and attachments in an amount not to exceed One Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000) and for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bonds of the City which were previously issued to pay the cost of acquiring and constructing water supply and sewage disposal system improvements in an amount not to exceed Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000). The bonds will be issued to refund the revenue bonds only if the City is able to realize debt service savings.

#### SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF BONDS

The principal of and interest on said bonds shall be payable from and secured by the general funds of the City lawfully available for such purposes including property taxes levied within applicable constitutional, statutory and charter tax rate limitations. However, it is the intent of the City to pay the principal of and interest on the refunding bonds from revenues derived from the operation of the City's water supply and sewage disposal system.

#### BOND DETAILS

SAID BONDS will be issued in one or more series, payable in annual installments not to exceed fifteen (15) in number, and will bear interest at the rate or rates to be determined at public or private sale but in no event to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law on the unpaid balance from time to time remaining outstanding on said bonds.

#### RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

THE BONDS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS UNLESS A PETITION REQUESTING SUCH A VOTE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY IS FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. IF SUCH PETITION IS FILED, THE BONDS MAY NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT AN APPROVING VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY VOTING THEREON.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 517, Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended.

Linda Langmesser  
City Clerk  
City of Plymouth



# Early deficit dooms Plymouth

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

It's never advisable to let Westland John Glenn get a quick start out of the blocks.

That's what hurt the Plymouth in Friday's KLAAs South Division boys basketball game, on "Senior Night."

The Division-leading Rockets sprinted out to a 25-7 lead after eight minutes and rolled to a 62-47 triumph.

Six missed layups in the first by the Wildcats acerbated the situation.

"It was 12 or 15 (points behind) before we knew it," Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said. "And then we had to play catch-up all night. That's not a good team to get down to."

The Wildcats were trailing 39-11 at halftime and

52-27 after three, but finished strong with a 20-point fourth.

Senior Marcus Oden tallied 18 points, while juniors Josh Priebe and Brendan Swanson added eight and six, respectively.

Eric Covile scored 21 points for John Glenn (13-2, 10-0) but only five in the second half due to the defense of Plymouth senior Donté Fox.

Soukup said all of the seniors played well on their night.

In addition to Oden, he noted that Jalen Eason "played really well and Donté Fox guarded Covile at the end of the night and shut him down."

Plymouth (6-9, 4-6) will visit Northville Tuesday night in what could be a primer for the KLAAs tournament.

The 'Cats made the cut as either the third or fourth seed in the division and could face the Mustangs again on Friday.

**CANTON 46, FRANKLIN 36:** On Friday night at Canton, the Chiefs overcame a slow start to take this KLAAs South Division boys basketball matchup against Livonia Franklin.

It took a 20-11 edge in the fourth quarter to pull out the victory for Canton (13-3 overall, 8-2 in the KLAAs South).

Franklin (2-13, 1-9) gave the Chiefs fits early on, taking an 11-6 lead after the first. It was a 21-18 halftime lead for the Patriots, but Canton started its comeback in the third with an 8-4 advantage to go up 26-25 entering the fourth.

Leading the Chiefs with 10 points and seven rebounds was Paul Baumgart, with Josh Mayberry and Jordan Nobles chipping in with seven points. Adding six each were Scott Gring and Ryan Planey.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After sweating out Friday's win over South Lyon, the Salem Rocks congratulate each other for winning the KLAAs Central Division title.

## ROCKS

Continued from page B1

seven seconds left) did not fall and Salem senior center Chris Dierker grabbed the rebound (he had seven for the night).

"We dodged a bullet there," Brodie said. "It was typical of what happened all night, none of us could make a basket."

Dierker then was fouled and he calmly sank two free throws for the final points of the game. He made sure of that when he stole the win, with Salem fans cheering and the team mobbing each other out on the floor.

"Just had to make my free throws and play good defense," Dierker said, adding that the team "didn't want to share it (division title)."

Brodie said Dierker was huge in the clutch and added that senior guard Tyler Stewart "made a big three to give us a little boost when we were on the ropes. That helped us."

Stewart's triple gave Salem a 31-25 lead with three minutes left.

Salem led 23-15 at halftime, buoyed by senior center Josh Peterson's string of three baskets within a minute. He tallied six points and pulled down eight boards.

Both teams couldn't do

much in the third, with South Lyon outscoring Salem by a 5-2 margin to make it a 25-20 game entering the fourth.

Salem senior guard Grant Bettner sailed through the paint for a field goal to kick off the fourth, opening up a seven-point cushion.

But as it turned out, there wasn't much room for comfort the rest of the way.

"Our offense was out of sync," Brodie said. "But as I told the players before, if you're going to win games, you got to win by defense."

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## PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

### DIVISION 1 TEAM DISTRICTS Feb. 8 at Plymouth PLYMOUTH 43, SALEM 32

**135 pounds:** Jon Conn (P) maj. dec. over Hamad Amed (S), 13-0; **140:** Hussein Youssef (P) pinned Mitchell Marshall (S), 2:59; **145:** Said Youssef (P) p. Riley Doxtader (S); **152:** Matt Lang (S) dec. Jon Rubio (P), 5-2; **160:** Tyler Gross (S) tech. fall over Matt Walsh (P); **171:** Alex Brown (S) p. Joey Shaver (P), 1:13; **189:** Mitchell Gross (S) p. Matt Ayoub (P), 5:00; **215:** Jake McCabe (S) p. CJ Mullins (P), 0:57; **285:** Ali Ajami (P) p. Faris Abraham (S), 2:45; **103:** Mohammed Youssef (P) p. Joe Taylor (S), 1:06; **112:** Trey Berry (P) p. Alex Arble (S), 1:49; **119:** Richard DeMarois (C) p. James Toms (S), 3:05; **125:** Austin Pilmer (C) dec. Caleb McCabe (S), 12-8.

9-3; **215:** Jacob McCabe (S) p. Adam Armesto (C), 4:53; **285:** Ken Woley (C) dec. Ali Ajami (S), 4-0; **103:** Joe Taylor (S) dec. Bobbi Kincaid (C), 6-2; **112:** Ben Griffin (C) p. Alex Arble (S), 1:34; **119:** Richard DeMarois (C) p. James Toms (S), 3:05; **125:** Austin Pilmer (C) dec. Caleb McCabe (S), 12-8.

Trey Berry (Ply.) dec. Marcus Wendel (Howell), 7-1. **119:** Gabe Martinez (LF) won by default over Ben Calandrino (Howell); **5th:** Richard DeMarois (Canton) pinned Ijji Raza (N'ville), 2:45. **125:** Alex Calandrino (Howell) won by technical fall over Jordan Amine (Brighton), 15-0; **3rd:** Chase Kallil (Ply.) dec. Keshav Patel (Canton), 3-1. **130:** C.J. Brish (Brighton) dec. Alec Breckenridge (Ply.), 6-4. **135:** Alec Pantaleo (Canton) dec. Evan Hoshaw (Brighton), 14-8. **140:** Sam Menke (Brighton) dec. Allen Parker (WJM), 5-4; **3rd:** Said Youssef (Ply.) won by major dec. over Samer Shebak (LS), 20-7. **145:** Ryan Derry (LF) dec. Nick Brish (Brighton), 6-5. **152:** Travis Mann (WJM) dec. Aaron Calderon (Brighton), 11-7; **5th:** Zach Marsh (Canton) dec. Alex Coe (N'ville), 3-0. **160:** Allen Steele (LF) dec. Jordan Maschke (Brighton), 4-1; **3rd:** Tyler Goss (Salem) dec. Sam Ekanem (WM), 3-1. **171:** Christian O'Guinn (GB) dec. Trevor Marech (N'ville), 3-2. **189:** Charles Sovel (WLC) dec. Matt Ostermiller (Hartland), 5-1; **5th:** Nathan Winter (SL) dec. Jake McCabe (Salem), 4-1. **215:** Dimitrus Renfrore (WM) dec. Jordan Brandon (WJM), 7-3. **285:** Cam Eglund (Howell) won by major dec. over Nick Denney (WLW), 10-2.

### KLAAs ASSOCIATION WRESTLING TOURNAMENT Feb. 4 at Howell

**TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Brighton, 204.5 points; 2. Hartland, 159.5; 3. Livonia Franklin, 143.5; 4. Westland John Glenn, 132.5; 5. Howell, 99; 6. Canton, 87.5; 7. Plymouth, 75; 8. Wayne Memorial, 64; 9. Grand Blanc, 56.4; 10. Northville, 55; 11. Novi, 52; 12. Walled Lake Central, 51; 13. Waterford Kettering, 45.5; 14. Livonia Stevenson, 43; 15. Milford, 37; 16. Salem, 29; 17. Walled Lake Western, 26; 18. Pinckney, 22; 19. Walled Lake Northern, 16; 20. South Lyon, 14; 21. White Lake Lakeland, 11; 22. Livonia Churchill, 6; 23. Waterford Mott, 5.5; 24. South Lyon East, 0.

**CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS**  
**103 pounds:** Kyle Gillies (WJM) decided Nate Hughes (Hartland), 6-1; **5th place:** Brandon Harris (Ply.) won by major dec. over Kyle Bohnsack (Brighton), 12-2. **112:** Danny Martinez (LF) dec. Ben Griffin (Canton), 5-1; **5th:**

## WRESTLING

Continued from page B1

matched up against Kallil with hopes of winning by a fall and getting six key points for the Rocks. That would have finished off Plymouth in the dual meet.

"Trailing (9-8) at the start of the third period, Kallil chose the bottom position and suddenly found himself on his back trying to avoid being pinned for the second time," described Guernsey in an e-mail to the Observer. "After struggling for 30 seconds, Kallil earned a reversal and had Korpus put to his back."

Kallil's pin in 5:02, followed by Plymouth's Alec Breckenridge winning

by void at the victory.

Guernsey added that Plymouth's 51-30 victory over Livonia Churchill earlier in the evening helped keep his wrestlers fresh for Salem (which edged Canton 33-32).

"Our team was able to spend some time preparing mentally for either opponent knowing that the championship dual was going to be a close one," he said.

### Back and forth

Plymouth rolled out to a 16-0 lead behind a major decision by Jon Conn and back-to-back pins by Hussein Youssef and Said Youssef.

Salem came back for a 32-16 edge. Matt Lang, Tyler Gross, Alex Brown, Mitchell Gross, Jake

McCabe and heavyweight Ali Ajami reeled off consecutive victories.

But then the Wildcats' lightweight (Youssef, 103; Trey Berry, 112; Brandon Harris, 119) rattled off 15 points to close to within one entering the 125 bout.

The Canton-Salem contest also was a nailbiter, Israel said.

Again, a string of mid-match wins put the Rocks in a good position. That time, they were able to hang on, thanks to Joe Taylor's timely 6-2 win at 103 — the only Salem win among the final five bouts.

Canton made a strong run, with stretch-run victories by Ken Woley (285), Ben Griffin (112), Richard DeMarois (119) and Austin Pilmer (125).

### Request for Proposals

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids up until 2:00 p.m., February 23, 2012. The bid opening will be at 2:00p.m., February 23, 2012, for the following:

#### 2012-Central Parking Structure Engineering Services

Specifications and bid documents are available at the city hall during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC  
City Clerk  
City of Plymouth

Publish: February 12, 2012

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## WHALERS

Continued from page B1

for Make-A-Wish Foundation," Aleardi said. "We do a lot of charities. I think people notice what we do."

Levi said Whalers players are all in to help the community. That goes from chatting with kids at schools to going to bat for major causes.

In October, the Peter Karmanos-owned Whalers were recognized by the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute of Detroit as one of 12 recipients of the annual Heroes of Breast Cancer Awards.

"Last year we did the Fourth of July parade in Plymouth and Northville," Levi said. "I've been involved in the community ever since I got here to Plymouth and it's been a great experience."

### Soaking it in

Schmitz said he welcomes trying to help grow the game in an area he hails from, particularly since he is team captain.

"I feel it's more important to me because I got friends and family here every game, always supporting me," Schmitz stressed. "So being captain around here it's an honor, it's a bigger responsibility and I'm up for the job."

Levi, a strong-skating defenseman and Carolina Hurricanes prospect, knows better than most about the OHL franchise's strong link with the surrounding area.

At age 14, when his family moved to Farmington Hills from Colorado, Levi joined the Compuware Youth Hockey Program, which is a magnet for amateur players of all ages and talent levels during their formative years.



Alex Aleardi of the Plymouth Whalers meets and greets young fans during last year's Farmington Founders Day Parade.

There for the next couple years, he regularly played games at Compuware and soaked in the junior hockey atmosphere.

"I got a chance to see a lot of the (Whalers) games and get a little taste of the OHL before I made my decision (to go to the OHL)," Levi said. "It was good to just move locker rooms here at Compuware Arena."

He smiled when asked if playing for the Whalers in the "official pipeline to the NHL" lived up to his expectations.

"It's been better than I thought it would be," Levi said. "It's really competitive, it's just an NHL-style game and it's really helped me develop my skills and hopefully get to that next level soon."

### Family ties

A perk of sorts for all of the Michigan contingent, which includes goalie Matt Mahalak (Monroe) and defenseman Mitch Jones (Rochester), is having a steady stream of family, friends and fans making the trip to Compuware.

"My family comes to the games," Schmitz said. "My grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins. It's fun having people here every game."

For Aleardi, whose parents moved from Farm-

ington Hills to Chesterfield, Mich., just before his September 2010 trade from Belleville, it's still "a great feeling" that they regularly watch him compete in a high-profile league.

He also gets requests for about 70 tickets per game, "for people from my old school (North Farmington), or my buddies in Livonia."

Aleardi also makes sure to always have time for the youth teams that make their way into the Whalers locker room after games to have posters signed.

After all, he remembered playing for his first-ever team, the Plymouth Sharks — a house B team based out of the Plymouth Cultural Center.

"You just ask them if they had fun, and they're just screaming and hollering," said Aleardi, smiling. "They're just so excited to see us. Even when we lose you smile and just appreciate that they came out to the game, supporting us the way Whalers fans do." ... "I take pride in being here and being a Plymouth Whaler, and I really like our reputation the way it is and I'd really like to keep it that way."

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
(734) 469-4128

# Gorski hat trick keys Canton clincher

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Senior forward Andrew Gorski's natural hat trick Wednesday sparked Canton's boys hockey team to a 3-2 victory over Livonia Stevenson to clinch the KLAA South Division for the second consecutive season.

"He's really stepped it up the latter part of the year here," said Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak about Gorski. "He's starting to put the puck in the net, playing more aggressively."

Gorski's three-goal first period proved to be just enough to hang on against the Spartans, who pressed Chiefs' senior netminder Spencer Craig in a bid to tie the game at Arctic Edge in Canton.

"He made some big, big saves for us," Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak said.

Gorski scored his three goals within a seven-minute span against Stevenson starting goalie Mike Kanitra.

Setting up Gorski's first tally, on the power play, was senior defenseman Zach Cox.

Gorski's linemates, seniors Duggan Tear and Brandon Grillo both assisted on the final two goals.

The Spartans cut the lead to 3-1 after one period when senior forward Thomas Ross scored with about 30 seconds to go. Assisting was senior defenseman Chris McDonald.

Stevenson then replaced Kanitra with junior goalie Connor Humitz and the Chiefs could not pad their lead.

It stayed 3-1 until there were about 10 minutes



Canton forward Andrew Gorski (No. 7) scored three goals Wednesday against Livonia Stevenson.

left in the third, Sophomore forward Dominic Lutz put the puck past Craig, on a play started by senior linemates J.D. Byrne and Mario Tomei.

But that was it as Craig held the fort down the stretch.

### Up the ladder

With the victory, Canton improved to 13-7 overall and 8-3 in the KLAA South and will face off next week against Howell for third place overall in the association. Stevenson dropped to 11-8-0-1 and 6-4-0-1 in the KLAA Central.

"It's a really big deal," said Majszak, a former Canton player. "The one thing we've been trying to do this year, our motto is building tradition."

"Last year we started it, but you can't just say it's tradition to win the league or tradition to win the Lash Cup every year. So we got to keep building on it, adding to it and they did that this year." Last week, the Chiefs

captured the Lash Cup, presented to the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park team with the best record against the other two teams (in this case, Plymouth and Salem).

Majszak said the next step is to win the game against Howell and after that, make it to the regional finals at Eddie Edgar Arena early next month. Last season, the suspension-ravaged Chiefs lost in a pre-regional against Northville.

"We're playing team hockey and working hard right now which is a really good thing," he continued. "This is the right time of year to find your groove and to really start pressing forward towards playoffs."

Canton narrowly missed the chance to play for the association title, finishing just one point behind Kensington Conference leader Brighton.

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## Whalers to play outdoors

The Plymouth Whalers and their fans will have the chance to experience playing and watching outdoor hockey late this year as part of the Hockeytown Winter Festival at Comerica Park.

The festival is in conjunction with the NHL Winter Classic between the Detroit Red Wings and Toronto Maple Leafs, slated for Jan. 1, 2013 at the University of Michigan's "Big House."

Whalers head coach Mike Vellucci told the Detroit Free Press that "it'll be a great opportunity

for fans to sample "something they haven't seen before."

Plymouth will face off against the London Knights in the opener of an Ontario Hockey League doubleheader also including the Windsor Spitfires and Saginaw Spirit. Reports have that game being played on Sunday, Dec. 30.

"The Ontario Hockey League is most pleased and values the invitation extended to us by the Detroit Red Wings and the NHL to be part of the Winter Classic,"

said OHL Commissioner David Branch. "We look forward to hopefully concluding the necessary arrangements to be part of this very special and exciting hockey celebration."

The announcement about the NHL's Winter Classic and the Hockeytown Winter Festival was made by the NHL Thursday morning at a news conference at Comerica Park.

Other details involving the Whalers' involvement will be made available at a later date.

## PCS Penguins score early, often

A four-goal first period Wednesday powered the PCS Penguins to an 8-0 rout over Bloomfield Hills.

Jackie Lough tallied two of the goals in the first period of the Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League Division 2 contest.

Also scoring were Nicole Natelborg and Emily Bullock.

Emily King scored her first regular season goal in the second and assisted

### GIRLS HOCKEY

on a goal by Sydney Smith — who also had three assists — to make it 6-0 entering the third period.

The Penguins (11-3 overall, 4-2 in D1, 7-1 in D2) wrapped up the big win with third-period goals by Lough (who also had two assists) and Jenna Carter.

Collecting other assists were Natelborg, Bullock, Carter, Alexis O'Flynn

and Elizabeth O'Donohue.

**PENGUINS 5, LADYWOOD 1:** On Feb. 4, the PCS Penguins skated to this victory over D1 Livonia Ladywood.

Scoring twice was Nicole Natelborg with Emily Bullock, Jackie Lough and Cortny McAduo adding one goal each.

PCS goalie Kaitlyn Allard's shutout bid was spoiled when Virginia Matherly scored for Livonia Ladywood.

## Plymouth wins in overtime, 4-3

Senior winger Cody Staub's power-play goal 3:37 into overtime Saturday lifted the Plymouth varsity boys hockey team to a 4-3 victory over Livonia Churchill at Arctic Edge Arena.

Senior defenseman Nate Stemberger (two assists) collected the puck at center ice, made a quick pass to Staub who skated into the offensive zone and fired a wrist shot past Charger goalie Chris Adams for Staub's second goal of the game

and fourth of the year.

"It was a hard-fought win for our team over a quality opponent," said Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento.

Plymouth (12-7) rebounded in overtime after Churchill rallied with two third-period goals to tie the game.

The Wildcats entered the third period with a 3-1 lead, but Churchill's Devin Smythe scored on the power play 1:13 into the period. With Adams on the bench for the extra attacker, the Chargers tied the game on

Riley Brown's goal with 19 seconds remaining in regulation.

Churchill's Jake Otto opened the scoring in the first period. Plymouth responded in the second period with goals senior winger Zach Gambrell (13th), junior defenseman Dean Gunther (fifth) and Staub's first goal of the game, also on the power play.

Senior goalie Rich Guglielmi made 16 saves for his eighth victory of the season.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Play GCYBSA ball

Registrations are now under way for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association's baseball and softball programs.

The GCYBSA offers progressively developmental recreational baseball and softball programs for players age 4-18 from Plymouth and Canton. GCYBSA is also home to a Competitive League and travel programs (Boys Cardinals, Girls Pride Fast Pitch).

For more information, go to [www.gcybsa.com](http://www.gcybsa.com) or contact Coralee Ott at (734) 394-5358, via e-mail at [cott@can-](mailto:cott@can-)

[ton-mi.org](http://ton-mi.org).

### Whalers' to host Faith & Family Day

The Plymouth Whalers announced the second annual Faith & Family Day. It will take place today at Compuware Arena. Plymouth faces off against Saginaw in a 2 p.m. contest, which will be followed by a free concert by Christian rockers The Jason Eaton Band.

Go to [www.plymouthwhalers.com](http://www.plymouthwhalers.com), or call (734) 453-8400 for ticket information.

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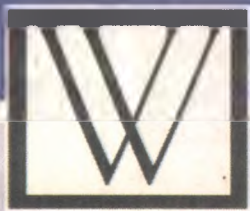
- For more experienced players
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## Seniors offer advice on love while taking high tea

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Nancy Brodrick of Plymouth will light candles and serve her husband, Don, his favorite dinner — steak and lobster — this Valentine's Day. He'll likely bring her flowers, as he does every other week.

"He's just very kind. I think that's the way his dad treated his mother. They just treated women with a great deal of respect."

Brodrick was among the 70-plus women who attended Canton's first Senior Citizen Center high tea last week, at the Summit. The Valentine's Day-themed event was open to all ages and both genders, but drew only women and mostly seniors, with a few daughters on hand.

Although most women said the tea, lunch and camaraderie motivated them to attend the gathering, they also had plenty to say about its theme when asked.

Want to know how to make love last?

Talk to Brodrick, whose 52-year marriage is still going strong.

"We see young people who are so in love and they are going to



Women enjoy tea, camaraderie and Valentine's Day decorations last week in Canton.

be together. We say WAIT," she said, with a laugh. "But really, I think you have to be forgiving and you have to give of yourself."

### Small gestures

For Boots Kawa of Canton, "little things" demonstrate love better than grand gestures.

"It could just be a little tap on the rear or a candy bar when you come home. Little things mean a lot. All the time, a little something all the time. Even a wink means I love you."

She still treasures the first valentine she

received from her late husband. It's a "sweet" old-fashioned card that she keeps in a dresser drawer. Married for 57 years, Kawa said honesty goes a long way toward keeping love alive.

"There aren't many marriages like ours was anymore. I mean, it's too bad there aren't because ours lasted a long time. There's a lot of sacrifice when you're young. When you get older it gets a little bit better and you can enjoy yourself a little," she said.

The great-grandmother recalls every Val-

entine's Day was "special" when her husband was alive. She said he enjoyed being with his grandchildren and "was famous" for his "horsey rides."

Being a good father and grandfather makes Bob Najmowicz of Canton even more endearing to his wife, Genny, who initially was attracted to his muscled physique when they met more than 43 years ago.

"It was attraction at first sight," she quipped. Now she says a simple kiss is all she needs for Valentine's Day. She also loves to watch him interact with his grandchildren and great-grandson.

"He has always been a wonderful father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He loves all of those children. Every Christmas it's tradition that he sets up a big train with all the



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marie Gentz of Canton says "give and take" is key to a lasting relationship.

kids helping to make the tracks."

### If not for you ...

The key to a good relationship is "compromise and give and take," according to Marie Gentz of Canton.

Respect is important, too, said Edith Wisenor, a widow who moved from Florida to Canton six years ago.

"Always let them know you love and care for them," said adding with a laugh, "And just be thankful you've got a man."



Lois Proctor of Canton was widowed three times, but says all three husbands were "good men."

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SuiteSweat is the first studio to offer infrared sauna therapy for health and wellness purposes with private sauna suites in a spa-type setting. The Sunlighten saunas help with weight loss, blood pressure, pain, cellular detoxification, skin purification and the immune system.

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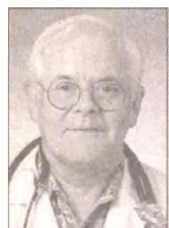


Patient Lori W., Lost Over 140 Pounds



# Is OnGARD the answer to engineering woe?

After all of these years of writing this column I have always admired the standards of this newspaper's ethics in journalism. My writings have never been used as an advertising medium but rather a true forum of consumer education.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

I will ask you to excuse me on this one occasion because the information I'm about to give you is so important. There is no money exchanging hands between this new company and myself nor do I expect there will be. It is a product produced here in Michigan and they need all of the publicity they can get. But most important the smart

consumer who is concerned about a clothes dryer fire needs to know about this product. It is called OnGARD and is a simple fire extinguisher which attaches to the back wall with a piece of plastic tubing leading into the base of the clothes dryer. I don't mean to simplify the concept but it took Gerald Flood, the inventor a short time to create this wonderful safety device.

In the past, I have talked to engineers and others about an extinguisher that could be installed within a clothes dryer to prevent fire. I'm sure the feeling from a manufacturer is that installing a fire suppression system within a dryer would mean admitting that the product is at fault. Not so, I claim as the homeowner is at fault here.

Manufacturers build a fine product which does the job very sufficiently and we con-

sumers don't pay enough attention to how a clothes dryer operates. There are over 16,000 dryer fires reported each year in this country and I'll bet that twice that amount go unreported. Many people are injured and many die and yet the news media does a terrible job of educating the American public. While this lack of concern seems prevalent and the way it is, this new invention can begin to save lives and make more homeowners aware.

I have endorsed many times to endorse someone's new product and I don't bite all that often. There was a product invented a few years back that would save energy costs by simply plugging your refrigerator into it. I stated that it might cause a compressor failure and it did, but millions were made before the product was removed from store shelves. Someone is always out to make

a quick buck in this world, which should raise the caution flag for shoppers.

This new invention just now is hitting the market place and as you can tell, I believe in it very strongly. It is not difficult for a typical homeowner to install themselves. You mount the extinguisher to the wall behind the dryer and then run the plastic tube through a louver on the back of the dryer. The tube lays on the inside floor of the dryer and when the heat of the flame hits the tube, it propels a proven fire suppressor powder throughout the base of the dryer, putting out the fire. Another important factor is that there is enough powder expelled that some of it will travel up the vent line to extinguish and prevent the fire from spreading outside of the dryer. It is not an expensive item, especially when compared to the cost of damages caused by

dryer fires.

The life of the product is about six years and the fire extinguisher has a gauge on it to tell you when it needs to be recharged. I have asked to be notified on the sad occasion of a dryer fire when this product has proven itself. Currently this product can be purchased at www.ongard.biz or call (800) 338-9010.

I spent some time last month appearing at the Novi Home Improvement show and I want to thank the many people who stopped by and said hello. It's a fact that so many of you commented on this column that I write and with great pride, I tell you that I am blessed to do so. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your questions on appliances to appldr@twm1.r.com.

## REUNIONS

Send reunion information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include a relevant photo as a jpg attachment.

### DEARBORN HEIGHTS AN-NAPOLIS

#### CLASS OF 1982

For information about the 30-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 20, at Fr. Patrick O'Kelly Knights of Columbus in Dearborn, visit the "AHS Class of 82" page on Facebook, or contact Diane Goodreau at dianaschofield@sbcglobal.net or (313) 363-0523; Jim Linaras at godofouzo@yahoo.com; or John Zadikian at zman6754@aol.com.

### DETROIT MACKENZIE

#### CLASS OF 1962

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

### FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

#### CLASS OF 1967

Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21 are looking for classmates. Send your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelspach) Whittaker at S\_whittaker@comcast.net or

Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net to receive a reunion packet.

### NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1971-75

The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40y-arreunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

### WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

#### CLASS OF 1957

Looking for classmates for the 55th class reunion to be held May 19. For more information contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or pollygirl219@aol.com. Or call Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

#### CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com.

## Orthodox churches mark Lent with Vespers

The first of five Sunday Lenten Vesper services presented by the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metro Detroit (COCC), is set for 6 p.m. March 4 at the Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, 18200 Merriman, Livonia.

The Very Rev. Roman Star, pastor of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford, president of the Orthodox Cler-

gy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit, and spiritual adviser to the COCC, will preside at the service, assisted by other members of the Clergy Brotherhood.

The Rev. William Bartz, Orthodox Metropolitan of Detroit, will be the homilist.

The Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit, conducted by Vickie Kopistiansky, artistic director, will

sing. All proceeds will benefit Orthodox Christian charities and COCC programs.

The remaining services will be March 11 at St. Clement Ohridski Macedonian-Bulgarian Orthodox Church, in Dearborn; March 18 at St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, in Southfield; March 25 at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, in Livonia; and April 1 at St. Paul

Macedonian-Bulgarian Orthodox Church, in Dearborn Heights. For information, call Robert A. Mitchell, president of the COCC, at (313) 204-5103 or e-mail to rmitc02@ameritech.net.

The COCC is a 55-year-old clergy and lay association that represents Orthodox churches in metro Detroit and sponsors worship, fellowship, and charitable, educational and outreach programs.

**Arthritis Today**  
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**SHOULDER PAIN AFTER AN INJECTION**

A person with shoulder pain should expect that after an injection the pain will end; often that is not the case. The delay reflects the nature of shoulder injury and how Nature crafted the joint.

The most common underlying problem is a fraying of the tendon of the supraspinatus tendon; past injury to the tendon is the usual cause.

When the injury occurs, the body tries to heal the site by building a scaffold of calcium on which new fibers can grow, eventually filling any defects in the tendon. However, for reasons unclear, on occasions the body lays down calcium, but new fiber growth does not follow. In that instance, the person may feel great pain almost as if someone has thrust a lance through the shoulder, as the calcium takes on the attributes of a sliver.

Nature comes into play because healing of any injury depends on a blood supply, preferably a good one, to complete the work of restoration. Unfortunately, the blood supply to the shoulder is lacking considering the amount of work the shoulder is called upon to do. While various blood vessels surround the shoulder, only a few reach the area of the supraspinatus tendon in the area known as the critical zone. At this site, the strain upon the supraspinatus tendon is the most, but the blood supply is the least.

When a person receives a shoulder injection, the steroid injected clears the area of extra calcium and allows healing to commence. But healing can proceed only as fast as the blood supply allows. Therefore, after an injection, pain lingers, not because the injection was inaccurate, but because the body must keep the tempo of its slowest healing part.

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Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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## RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. If including a photo, it must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

### February

#### BALLET

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15  
**Location:** Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Ballet Emmanuel, a professional Christian Ballet Company based out of Colorado Springs, Colo., will perform "Rain ... Hope in the midst of the storm," an original contemporary ballet concert depicting the story of the Flood from the point of view of Noah's wife. Free admission  
**Contact:** Laci Landry at (810) 247-0422 or visit balletemmanuelcompany@gmail.com

#### BOWLING FUNDRAISER

**Time/Date:** 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26  
**Location:** Westland Bowl 5940 Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** For Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City; tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for children and include three games, shoes, pizza, and pop  
**Contact:** (734) 427-3660

#### BREAKFAST

**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19  
**Location:** St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** Pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10  
**Contact:** (734) 425-4421

#### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**Time/Date:** Dinner, 6 p.m. Feb. 18; Eucharist, 10 a.m. Feb. 19  
**Location:** St. John's Episcopal

Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** The dinner, held at the Summit in Canton, will include, a video presentation, music, gift drawings, and a ticket for a chance to win a centennial quilt and more. The ticket costs \$40 per person. Bishop Wendell Gibbs will attend the worship service on Feb. 19. The service will include special music and banners created by members of the parish. A celebration reception will follow the service  
**Contact:** (734) 453-0190

#### CLOTHING BANK

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25  
**Location:** Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty roads, Canton  
**Details:** Free clothing and shoes are available to anyone in need  
**Contact:** (734) 927-6686 or (734) 404-2480

#### GRIEFSHARE

**Time/Date:** 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19-May 27  
**Location:** Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, south of Five Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** The 13-week grief seminar and support group is non-denominational and Christian-based. Registration is \$15 and includes a workbook/journal  
**Contact:** Pastor Roger Wrightt at (313) 682-7491; www.grief-share.org

#### GRIEF SUPPORT

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Feb. 29 and March 7, 14 and 21  
**Location:** St. Michael's Catholic Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** Grieving with Great Hope, a four-week grief support series will offer a prayerful and practical approach for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Presenters will include The Rev. Bill Tindall as well John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry. Register by calling the church of visiting Good Mourning

Ministry's Web site.  
**Contact:** (734) 261-1455; www.goodmourningministry.net

#### KIDS OF THE KINGDOM

**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:45 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 15  
**Location:** South Redford Christian Church, 26505 W. Chicago Road, Redford  
**Details:** The church's weekly children's program will present a Valentine's Day party. Children ages 3 years-5th grade may attend. The children will play games, worship, eat a sweet snack, and learn about God's love.  
**Contact:** (313) 937-2050

#### LENTEN WORSHIP

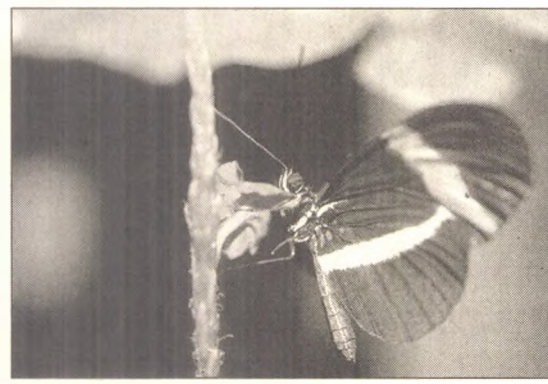
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22-March 28  
**Location:** Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford  
**Details:** There will be a free soup and sandwich supper served at 6 p.m. on Ash Wednesday. Free treats after other Lenten services. Series theme is "See His Cross!"  
**Contact:** (313)532-8655 or (734)968-3523

#### MOVIE

**Time/Date:** 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24  
**Location:** Christ Our Savior Lutheran, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia  
**Details:** A free showing of the movie, "Courageous," from the creators of "Fireproof"  
**Contact:** www.christsavior.org; (734) 522-6830

#### POMEGRANATE GUILD

**Time/Date:** 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12  
**Location:** Prentis Apartments, 10 Mile east of Greenfield in Oak Park  
**Details:** The Pomegranate Guild of Southeastern Michigan is a group that studies and creates Judaic needlework. Judy Galperin will lead a Passover table runner workshop.  
**Contact:** Judy Galperin at (248) 661-5337



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Learn about butterflies at the next meeting of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, Feb. 15 at Nankin Mills in Westland.

## GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature announcements to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

#### Butterflies

Learn how butterflies can enrich your life as well as bring beauty to your yard at the next meeting of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Parking on Hines Drive or Ann Arbor Trail. \$3.00 for non-members. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

#### Gardening seminars

The Master Gardener Association of Western Wayne Country presents seminars for the gardening public, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, 21, and 28, in the Wayne County Extension Office auditorium, 5454 Venoy, a quarter mile north of Van Born, Wayne. Cost is \$10 per session. For more information visit mgwcc.org. To register, e-mail mgwccorg@gmail.com or call (313) 719-1181.

Master gardeners will teach each session:  
 • Composting/Hoop Houses, on Feb. 14, will teach the basics of backyard composting. Bruce Forrest, Advanced Master Gardener and community garden expert, will explain what should and shouldn't be composted and will describe different types of com-

post containers. He'll also talk about building a hoop house to extend the growing season.  
 • Urban Chicken Farming, on Feb. 21, will be taught by an urban chicken farmer. Local ordinances will be discussed as well as coop design and construction.  
 • Square Foot/High Yield Gardening, on Feb. 28, will teach techniques, fertilization and space saving tips, including how to grow lots of vegetables in a small space and in a bale of straw. Taught by Paul Rodman, Advanced Master Gardener, and garden writer.

#### English Gardens

• Learn to create an outdoor living area in your yard, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18. The presentation is free.  
 • A free, step-by-step presentation will focus on arranging fresh flowers, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25.  
 • Create your own floral arrangement to take home, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25. Cost is \$24.99. Register at www.englishgardens.com.  
 Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

# Guide to Employment

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

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#### Building Monitor

Canton is now accepting applications for Building Monitor Job description with complete qualifications and hiring process are available on the Canton Township website at www.canton-mi.org  
 Application Deadline: 4:00pm 2/21/12 E.O.E.

#### CAREGivers

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#### Help Wanted-General

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#### DIRECT CARE STAFF

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 \*Additional Charter Work Available  
 \*Benefits  
 \*Competitive Wages  
 \*Guaranteed Hours

#### Apply online at

www.durham-schoolservices.com or call the location of your choice below for more information.  
 Southfield: 248-867-7542  
 South Redford: 313-535-4000 ext 1189  
 Birmingham: 248-746-7748

#### Drivers

**Attention CDL A Drivers**  
 Immediate local runs available for metro Detroit area, home every night. Good pay, health ins, vacation. Must have 1 yr exp w/clean MVR. Willingness to work. Sign on bonus up to \$500. Come join our Team.  
 Call today: 877-977-4287

www.hometownlife.com

#### Help Wanted-General

**Attention CDL A Drivers**  
 Immediate openings for driver for road work and teams. Road drivers in the Detroit area are out 5 days, home 2 days. Team drivers are out of Toledo Running to south US out 5 days, home 2 days Sign on bonus up to \$500. Must have 2 yrs exp w/clean MVR. Good pay and benefits  
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 Strict confidence will be held

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#### Help Wanted-Office Clerical

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 Computer skills req. Word/Excel. Financial Services exp. preferred.  
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**DENTAL ASSISTANT**  
 Full Time. Exp required. Fax resume: 734-453-8223

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#### WAITSTAFF/BARTENDER

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# Milestones

## Loewe-Dunn

Melanie Dunn and Sean Loewe were married Nov. 11, 2011, in the Dominican Republic.

The bride, daughter of Jim Dunn and Polly Sinclair of Northville, graduated in 2001 from Canton High School and in 2005 from Michigan State University. She is a purchasing agent for Brasco International.

The groom, son of Robert and David Loewe of Plymouth, graduated in 2001 from Salem High School and in 2005 from Western Michigan University. He is a regional sales manager for Brasco International.

Aysia Dunn was the maid of honor. Sara Bulea, the bride's sister-in-law, Amanda Dziak and Diane Smith were bridesmaids.

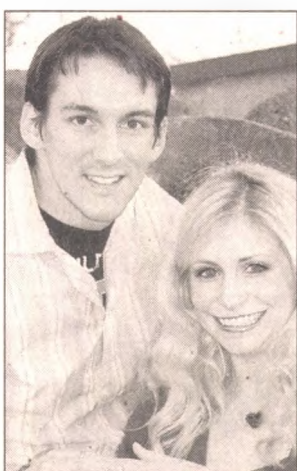


Scott Loewe was the best man. The groom's attendants were Nick Tochman, Ian Riley and James Dunn.

A reception was held in Punta Cana. A second reception was held in Wixom, following the destination wedding.

The couple spent their honeymoon in Punta Cana.

They've made their home in Wolverine Lake.



Robertson-Jackett

Andrea Lynn Robertson of Livonia and Christopher Alan Jackett of Novi are engaged to be married in April 2012 at The Inn at St. Johns in Plymouth.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Ron and Mary Robertson of Livonia. She graduated from Livonia Churchill High School in 2003 and from Eastern Michigan University in 2007 with a bachelor of science degree in accounting. She also graduated from Walsh College in 2009 with a master's degree in business administration. She is an assistant business manager and sales representative at Blackwell Ford in Plymouth.

Her fiancé is the son of William and Nancy Jackett of Redford. He graduated from Redford Union High School in 2003 and from Michigan State University in 2007. He also graduated from Walsh College in 2011 with a master's degree in business administration. He is a sports writer for the Novi News and a reporter for the Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle, as well as an assistant manager at Total Sports Complex in Novi.

## Probelski-Brichford

Mary Probelski and Karl Brichford announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Paul Probelski of Livonia and the late Terry Ann Probelski, is a 2006 graduate of Stevenson High School. Mary earned an associate's degree from Oakland Community College in 2011 and is employed as a laboratory technician at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

Her fiancé, son of Mark and Debra Brichford of Livonia, is a 2004 graduate of Stevenson High School. Karl earned an associate's degree in applied science from Schoolcraft Community College in 2008. He is a paramedic at Oakwood Hospital and a paid, on-call firefighter for the city of Farmington Hills.

A September 2012 wedding is planned in Traverse City.



## Salciccioli-Karew

Marguerite Salciccioli of Farmington Hills and Todd Karew of Ferndale announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Joyce and Mike Rusher of Clawson, is employed by St. Regis schools.

Her fiancé, son of Carl and Bruno Karew of Berkley, is employed by Plumbing Professors.

An October 2012 wedding is planned in Farmington Hills.



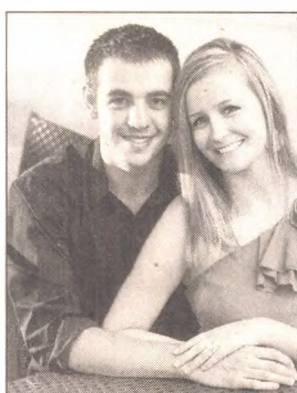
Salciccioli-Karew

## Doerr-Di Mascio

Kelly Lynn Doerr and Ilio Di Mascio announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Michael and Amy Doerr of Wayne, graduated in 2006 from Wayne Memorial High School and in 2011 from the University of Michigan with a dual BBA in business management and finance. She is a human resources specialist at DFCU Financial.

Her fiancé, son of Ilio and Leslie Di Mascio of Westland and Jacqueline and Ronald Willim of Taylor, graduated in 2007 from Livonia Churchill High School. He holds an associate's degree in science from Henry Ford Community College, and is pursuing a doctorate degree in physical therapy at Wayne State University.



Doerr-Di Mascio

A July 2012 wedding is planned in Detroit.

## Napolitano-Ferrante

Tonya Napolitano and David Ferrante, both of Westland, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Robert and Olma Crocker of Dearborn. Her fiancé's parents are Louis and Linda Ferrante of Minerva, Ohio.



Napolitano-Ferrante

## Welton-Fair

Amanda R. Welton and Jason S. Fair announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Dan and Renee Welton of Plymouth. Her fiancé's parents are Terry and Pat Fair of Grand Blanc.

A June 2012 wedding is planned in Ann Arbor.



Welton-Fair

## Aiden Joseph Wawro

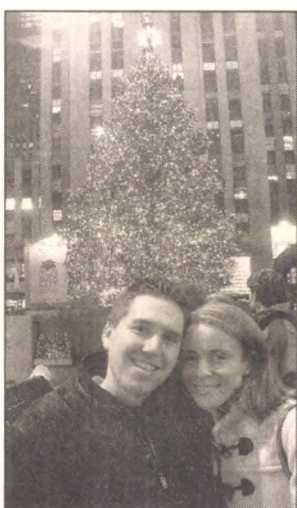
Aiden Joseph Wawro was born Dec. 14, 2011, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

Proud parents are Rob and Sara Wawro of Westland.

Grandparents are Mike and Lee Ramsden of Westland, Walter Wawro of Bedford, Ohio, and Donna Hladky of Henderson, Nev.



Aiden Joseph Wawro



Coughlin-Siembor

Clare Rita Coughlin and Michael Joseph Siembor announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Tom and Barbara Coughlin of Tarrytown, N.Y., earned a BA degree in history from Iona and an MA in Western history from Fordham University. She plans to begin work on a PhD program in history this fall.

Her fiancé, son of Chet and Marilyn Siembor of Livonia, earned a BA in English and a psychology from Notre Dame University and is a PhD candidate in counseling psychology at the University at Albany, State University of New York. He is a psychologist in the Counseling Center at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y.

A May 2012 wedding is planned in Tarrytown, N.Y.

# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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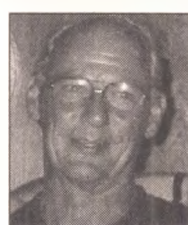
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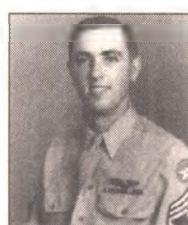
BALLERT, ILO JOSEPHINE

94 passed away peacefully on February 3, 2012 at Angela Hospice in Livonia, Mich. She was known to friends and family as "Jo" and was a fixture in the Livonia Public School system from 1961 through 1987, having taught in nine different elementary and junior high schools. She loved teaching and particularly her later vocation as a Reading Specialist at Riley Middle School. Jo received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toledo and Masters of Arts in Education and Education Specialist (Special Education) degrees from the University of Michigan. Wolverine football games were always at the top of her favorite pastimes, as she and husband Al, would cheer from their end zone seats and travel to Bowl games. Jo was also very active in her church, Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church in Livonia, and served on numerous committees, prayer groups and as an elder. Jo made it a point to be an active participant in local and state politics, and to always stay informed on current event issues. Missed dearly by her children, Colby (Carol) and Josette (David) Koets, grandchildren, Steven (Katie) Koets, Sara (Kirk) Pauley, Brendan (Janie), Cassandra and Zachary Ballert and great-grandson Connor Koets. She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Albert G. Ballert, son, Albert Jr. and brother, Robert Butler. Services were held from the Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. Interment Toledo Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be given to the church or to the donor's choice of organization in her name. Arrangements entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Share memories at schrader-howell.com



EGAN, EUGENE WALTER "GENE"

Age 81, Feb. 4, 2012, of Santa Barbara, CA. Formerly of West Bloomfield. Services being held at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center, 1118 East Cabrillo Boulevard, Santa Barbara, CA 93103.



FISHER, ANDREW

February 7, 2012 age 94 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth. Loving father of Betty Jo Sulpher, Janice (Jim) Schultz, Elaine (Dennis) Lockhart, Daniel (Vivian) James (Nancy), Laura (Daniel) George, and the late Pamela Croft. Dear brother of Angela Thomas, Orville (Delores) Fisher, and Fay (George) Schomberger. Also survived by 12 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. Visitation Thursday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In state Friday 10 AM until the 10:30 AM funeral mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 North Territorial (at Beck) Plymouth. To share memories please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

## LONG, SAMUEL J.

Age 87, passed away February 4, peacefully with his family at his side. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joan. Beloved father of Barbara (Ron) Phillips, James (Barbara), Beverly Long (Randy Hamrick), Joanne (Terry) Hoyt, and David (Lisa). Devoted grandfather of 15 and loving great-grandfather of four. Sam was a retired teacher of 30 years in Livonia Schools and 25 years at Schoolcraft College. He was also a World War II Army Veteran. Arrangements were held by Neely-Turowski Funeral Home, Livonia. Donations can be made to the Salvation Army and Capuchin Soup Kitchen. www.neely-turowski.com.



MACDONALD, THERESA

Age 70. February 4, 2012. Beloved wife of Richard for 47 years. Loving mother of James and Karen. Dearest daughter of Mary and the late Thomas Podkowka. Sister of Helen Richards. Proud retiree from the City of Livonia DPW after 32 years of service. Visitation was held Tuesday 4-8 pm and Wednesday 2-8 pm with a 7 pm vigil service Wednesday evening at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. Funeral Thursday, in state 9:30 am until time of Mass at 10 am at St. Colette Catholic Church 17600 Newburgh Rd. in Livonia. Visitation Saturday 10 am until time of prayer service at 12 pm at the Barry Funeral Home in Rome, New York.

## KETCHUM, RUBY JEAN

Age 78, February 9, 2012. Beloved wife of Lawrence. Dear mother of Patricia (David Bremer) Stephens, Michael Armstrong, Kimberly (Timothy) Crumb and step-daughter Deborah (Joe) Stergakos. Loving grandmother of Tammy (Dennis) Buda, Tracey (Paul) Stachowiak, Michael, Alyssa & Taylor Armstrong, Steven Sanderson, Ryan & Todd Craig, and Alexandria Stergakos. Great-grandmother of D.J. & Kelsey Cary, Matthew Stachowiak and Chloe Raabe. Sister-in-law of Mary Lewis, Patty Rose Darrin and Bruce (Nancy) Ketchum. Visitation Saturday 4-9pm and Sunday 1-9pm. Funeral Service Monday 10am at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill). www.santeiufuneralhome.com

## BROWN, LOUIS H.

February 6, 2012. Age 84 of Westland. Beloved husband of Dolores. Dear father of Deborah (Harold) Roe and Scott (Erica). Loving grandfather of 4 and great-grandfather to 2. Funeral service Thurs. 1pm at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family will receive visitors Weds. 2-9pm. Interment at Cadillac Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Westland. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhtfh.com

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KUCZEK, EDWARD A.

Born June 10, 1919 and died February 5, 2012 at the age of 92. Ed was married to Gayle for 42 years, who preceded him in death. Parents Albert and Anna and sister Lillian passed before him. Survived by sister Frances, brother-in-law Jerry, daughter Karen, many cousins and numerous friends. Ed was in the Army Air Core and was honorably discharged on February 16, 1946. He enjoyed golf, dancing and playing bridge, and spent many years at Walloon Lake and many winters in sunny Florida after retiring from Ford Motor Company in June 1981. Visitation Thursday 10 a.m. until the 3 p.m. Funeral Service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster (South of Ford road). Family suggests memorials to Capuchin Soup Kitchen or the Carmelite Nuns.

## NOTEBAERT, RITA

88, passed away at the loving home of her caregiver, Cheryl Christie in Williamsburg, Thursday, February 2, 2012. Rita was born April 13, 1923 in Belle River, Ontario, Canada and grew up in Detroit the cherished daughter of the late Russell and Lillian Bruckner. She was the beloved wife of the late Tom, dear sister of the late Mark (Marie) VanEvery, daughter-in-law of the late Gerard and Marguerite Notebaert and sister-in-law of Tensie Egnatios. Rita and her beloved husband, the late Thomas G. Notebaert, were married at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Detroit on May 14, 1949. They honeymooned at Traverse City's Park Place Hotel and at their cottage on Torch Lake. They made their home in Plymouth until retiring to Elk Rapids. She leaves behind their daughter, Michelle (Jerry Dietrich) Notebaert of Elk Rapids and their son Craig (Georgia) Notebaert of Plymouth. Also surviving are grandchildren, Amy (Nick) Anderson, Ryan (Sarah) Notebaert, Roth Notebaert and Carlee Notebaert and great-grandchildren, Alex Goss, Abby Goss, Mandy Anderson, Cameron Anderson, Evan Notebaert, Savannah Notebaert, Matthew Notebaert and Isabella Notebaert and several nieces and nephews. A celebration of Rita's life will be held at a later date. Memorials may be directed to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 143 Charles, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Please visit Rita's webpage at www.lifestorynet.com to sign the online guest book and share a message or memory with her family. The family chose Life Story Funeral Home, Traverse City to handle the arrangements.

## PELKEY, HOWARD E.

February 6, 2012 age 70. Beloved husband of Barbara. Dear father of Kendra (Bill) Ratliff and Blaine (Joy) Pelkey. Grandfather of Cassie, Amanda, Cheyenne, Cierra and Tyler. Brother of Jerald (Diane) Pelkey. Services were held Thursday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. Contributions suggested to the Multiple Sclerosis Society or the American Cancer Society. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com

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## Benefit set to help Plymouth woman buy cancer treatments

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Linda Cutrera-Harms of Plymouth figures she and her husband, Jymi, are about a quarter million dollars in debt — and it's all because of cancer.

"Every three weeks it's difficult to come up with \$2,300," said Cutrera-Harms, 50, who has undergone six expensive rounds of chemotherapy since she was diagnosed with lung cancer in September last year. A PET scan discovered two tumors in her right lung, a mass in her sinuses, and tumors on her spine and adrenal glands.

"My oncologist told me it was advanced and serious. He gave me a 50-50 chance of survival. I needed to do the chemo. I want to live and be a survivor."

Family and friends plan a fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 18, to help Cutrera-Harms pay for treatment. The event will run 2-9 p.m. at the Wayne Masonic Temple, 37137 Palmer, just east of Newburgh, in Westland. Tickets are \$20 per person and will include a Spaghetti dinner, four live bands, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle and baskets raffle. Chil-

dren eat for free.

"She is a terrific girl, kind-hearted," said Kim Mullinix, who is helping to coordinate the fundraiser. Mullinix worked with Cutrera-Harms at Medical Weight Loss Clinic. "She has to pay 2,300 to get the chemo treatments she needs. She will start her next round soon. She needs another PET scan, too. They scan you and tell you how your body is responding to treatment. That's like \$5,000."

Donations for Cutrera-Harms also are accepted by mail. Send checks to Linda Harms, P.O. Box 851006, Westland, MI 48185.

Cutrera-Harms grew up in New York and New Jersey and moved to Michigan in 1978. She lived in Canton and Garden City before moving to Plymouth. She and her husband have two children. Daughter Nikki is a mom with three daughters, and son Cody, is an infantryman in the U.S. Army, serving in Afghanistan. Jymi is self-employed in information technology. Both Cutrera-Harms and her husband perform with a local band called Stiletto, which will participate in



Linda Cutrera-Harms and her husband, Jymi

the fundraiser.

Cutrera-Harms worked in banking for 26 years and was a corporate tax accountant before being laid off. She was managing Medical Weight Loss Clinic's Novi office when she became ill with pneumonia last June.

"I didn't take it seriously. I continued working. I didn't rest," she recalled. "They gave me antibiotics and I finally got over it. Then in August 2011 I got full-blown pneumonia and was put in the hospital. I had to have my lungs drained twice. That's when I was diagnosed with cancer."

Her mother had been diagnosed with a more aggressive form of lung cancer and had died four years earlier.

"I don't know how long I had the lung cancer before they saw it. I had a little high blood pressure, but I felt perfectly healthy and

fine. I could do anything," she said.

The couple has health insurance, but it covers only \$1,000 of the chemotherapy treatments, Cutrera-Harms said.

"We thought we were covered, until we needed to use it. That's when we found out it's not worth the paper it's printed on. It's been pretty scary. We're barely covering our household bills and we're getting creamed with bills from doctors," she said. "I need tests done. CAT scans costs \$2,500 a piece and a PET scan is \$5,000."

Cutrera-Harms said the chemotherapy has helped. Tumors in her lungs and sinuses appear to be shrinking.

"My focus is on living. We are over-the-top stressed out, but I have to focus on living and getting better. My husband, family and friends have been helping me so much."

## Chat online with lung cancer physician

Dr. Gregory Kalemkerian, head of U-M's Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Center, will answer questions about lung cancer through an online chat Feb. 16.

"Lung cancer is the biggest cancer-related health problem in the United States right now," Kalemkerian said. "This event will allow participants to ask important questions related to the disease's causes, symptoms and prevention."

Participants can register for the online chat — which will begin at noon — at [mcancer.org/chat](http://mcancer.org/chat).

Although smoking is the main cause of lung cancer, Kalemkerian said 10 percent of those who have the disease have never smoked. Second-hand smoke and occupational hazards such as asbestos exposure can also lead to lung cancer.

Former Wolverine football player and Ann Arbor policeman Vada Murray was one of the 10 percent. His wife, Sarah Murray, started the Vada Murray Fund for Cancer Research at U-M shortly after he died in 2011. The fund



Kalemkerian

has raised more than \$70,000 for research aimed at exploring early detection and the causes of various types of lung cancer, with an emphasis on environmental issues and cancer treatments.

Because many of the indicators for lung cancer are also common ailments for smokers, it can be hard to diagnose the disease, Kalemkerian said. Lung cancer often is diagnosed in the later stages because patients do not report symptoms earlier.

"Screens like CT scans can help detect early signs of cancer in those at high risk," he said. "When we can catch it earlier, there's a much better chance of treating the disease."

## Learn to control your blood pressure

Good News for High Blood Pressure, a class that emphasizes simple lifestyle changes, healthy food choices, low-cost supplements, and daily stress relief tips for blood pressure control will run 6-8 p.m., Feb. 16 and 23 at the Livonia Family YMCA, 14255 Stark, Livonia.

Cost for the two sessions is \$39, with

an additional \$10 workbook fee payable in class.

Registration deadline is (734) 261-2161.

Questions? Call Pat Woloszyk at (734) 261-2161 or e-mail to [pwoloszyk@ymca-metrodetroit.org](mailto:pwoloszyk@ymca-metrodetroit.org). Or call Sandy Baumann at (248) 474-1974.

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### HEALTHY HEARTS 101

Thursday, February 16, 2012 • 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
Village of Redford (25330 Six Mile Road • Redford, MI 48240)

GCH Cardiologist Nizam Habhab, DO, FACC, FACOI will discuss heart health. An exercise physiologist will be on hand to teach simple exercise techniques that can easily be done at home or in the office. A heart healthy dinner will be served. Seating is limited. Call 734-458-3248 to reserve your space.

### GCH HEART WALK 2012

Saturday, February 25, 2012 • 9 am – 12 Noon  
Westland Mall (35000 Warren Road • Westland, MI 48185)

Dress comfortable and get ready to move. Start embracing a healthier lifestyle to improve cardiovascular health by walking for health and prizes!

### Lecture & Lunch, 11 am

Bring your heart related questions for our panel of expert physicians. Guests will enjoy a light lunch. Seating is limited. Call 734-458-3248 to reserve your space.

All events are FREE. Heart risk assessments will be offered on site.



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## Do You Have Enough Experience For That Job?

### Alina Dizik, Special to CareerBuilder

Just because you were a senior manager at one company doesn't mean that your next job won't be a midlevel role. Often, appropriate job titles can get confusing during a job search. "There's no standardization as to how the titles are done," says Jim Beqaj, founder of Beqaj International, an executive search firm and consultancy.

Not sure which job title you should target when looking for a job? Here's a rough guide to deciphering how to categorize your skills and what to keep in mind:

#### Entry level

This category is misleading, because it's not just for those new to the workforce. Plenty of people who have been in the workforce for five years or fewer can fall under the entry-level umbrella.

When going after an entry-level job, try to let your personality and enthusiasm shine. "Entry level is all about personality fit ... basic skills of good communication, eye contact and a sign of eagerness and genuineness are key in securing entry-level jobs," Beqaj says.

#### Midlevel

For job seekers who are no longer newbies in the market, a midlevel position has entirely different demands. "A midlevel manager typically directs people, departments, functions or projects as well as budgets," says résumé writer Deborah Schuster, founder of Lettersmith Résumé Service.

"For most companies, this would require a minimum of a bachelor's degree and five to 15 years of experience."

Additionally, conveying to hiring managers how you would fit in with the company hierarchy is key. "Midlevel requires experience in previous jobs, so making sure that you have the experience and skills sets required is paramount. Your ability to articulate your experiences and how they positively impacted your previous employer are critical," Beqaj says.

#### Senior-level and executive

Just because you were a senior-level employee at one company doesn't mean you should be targeting only senior roles for your next gig.

"There are many definitions for the word 'executive' and 'experienced,'" Schuster says.

Corporate structures vary and larger companies have few senior-level slots. Before applying, use a site like LinkedIn to see where an employee with duties similar to your desired role fits in. "It helps if you know the size of the company and have a description of the qualifications they seek. And be sure your résumé and cover letter is tailored to show that you have those qualifications," Schuster says.

#### Match skills not level

Just because you fall into a certain experience bucket doesn't mean you can't apply for a position that

requires your skills but is on a lower level. Most companies are happy to consider a more junior person for a job, especially if that means they can get away with paying a lower salary. Before you apply, consider whether "your natural instincts [are] making you feel comfortable or uneasy; trust your senses," Beqaj says. Many larger companies may also start employees at a lower level. In other words, your senior-level role at a technology startup may result in a midlevel position with a Fortune 500 firm.

#### Understand what or whom you're managing

Another good test for figuring out which level to target is to gauge your current job responsibility. Whether you're getting the information from a recruiter or through your own personal connections, get a sense of whether you would be managing entry-level employees, other managers, a department, a group of businesses, the entire enterprise or just your own time, says George Bradt, managing director of PrimeGenesis, a company that helps executives become established in their new jobs.

The higher the level, the more senior the job title should be for your next position. "What matters when reviewing job descriptions for entry level, midlevel, senior and experienced positions is what people are managing," Bradt says.



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**NO GAMES PLEASE:** 38, 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, outgoing, romantic. Like music, dancing, movies, shopping, traveling, camping, amusement parks, quiet nights at home. Seeking a sincere, successful, fun-loving, professional man. 30-45, weight proportional to height, polite, fun-loving, for friendship first leading to serious LTR. Please no phone calls. 224-8846

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**FLIGHT ATTENDANT:** Recently widowed former flight attendant 35, a meaningful relationship with a gentleman who is a man. I'm 5'10, blonde hair, blue eyes, fun-loving and hope to hear from you soon. 224-8846

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**LOVELY AND LOVELY WIDOW:** 38, 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, outgoing, romantic. Like music, dancing, movies, shopping, traveling, camping, amusement parks, quiet nights at home. Seeking a sincere, successful, fun-loving, professional man. 30-45, weight proportional to height, polite, fun-loving, for friendship first leading to serious LTR. Please no phone calls. 224-8846

**LET'S GO!** I am a SWF, 37, in my 60s, brown eyes, brunette, who loves movies, cooking, arts, etc. 300-8846, gentleman, for a possible relationship. Call and leave a message. 224-8846

**LET'S MEET!** 38, 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, outgoing, romantic. Like music, dancing, movies, shopping, traveling, camping, amusement parks, quiet nights at home. Seeking a sincere, successful, fun-loving, professional man. 30-45, weight proportional to height, polite, fun-loving, for friendship first leading to serious LTR. Please no phone calls. 224-8846

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**SEEKING A LATINA WOMAN:** 38, 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, outgoing, romantic. Like music, dancing, movies, shopping, traveling, camping, amusement parks, quiet nights at home. Seeking a sincere, successful, fun-loving, professional woman. 30-45, weight proportional to height, polite, fun-loving, for friendship first leading to serious LTR. Please no phone calls. 224-8846

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**LOVE DOES NOT GIVE UP:** 38, 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, outgoing, romantic. Like music, dancing, movies, shopping, traveling, camping, amusement parks, quiet nights at home. Seeking a sincere, successful, fun-loving, professional woman. 30-45, weight proportional to height, polite, fun-loving, for friendship first leading to serious LTR. Please no phone calls. 224-8846

**REAL GUY:** 38, 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, outgoing, romantic. Like music, dancing, movies, shopping, traveling, camping, amusement parks, quiet nights at home. Seeking a sincere, successful, fun-loving, professional woman. 30-45, weight proportional to height, polite, fun-loving, for friendship first leading to serious LTR. Please no phone calls. 224-8846

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**MOVING TO THE WEST SIDE:** 38, 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, outgoing, romantic. Like music, dancing, movies, shopping, traveling, camping, amusement parks, quiet nights at home. Seeking a sincere, successful, fun-loving, professional woman. 30-45, weight proportional to height, polite, fun-loving, for friendship first leading to serious LTR. Please no phone calls. 224-8846

**FRIENDS FIRST:** 38, 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, outgoing, romantic. Like music, dancing, movies, shopping, traveling, camping, amusement parks, quiet nights at home. Seeking a sincere, successful, fun-loving, professional woman. 30-45, weight proportional to height, polite, fun-loving, for friendship first leading to serious LTR. Please no phone calls. 224-8846

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