

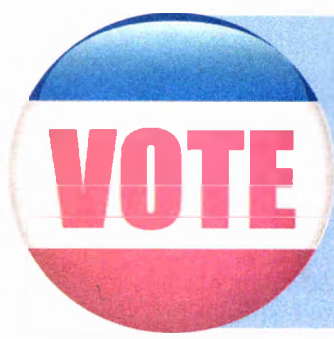


FALL BACK: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS 2 A.M. SUNDAY

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## ANOTHER LOOK

Our choices for Nov. 4 general election - A12

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2014 • hometownlife.com

## Pair charged in township man's slaying

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

Marathon detective work led to the arrests of two people who were charged Friday with the murder of longtime Plymouth Township resident Kenneth LaBita.

LaBita, 76, was found Monday evening shot to death in his house on Gilbert Avenue, just east of Haggerty. He had lived in the house for about 40 years and grew up in a house down the street, said his sister, Sally Lemus.



Pisarski Nutt

Andrew J. Nutt, 22, of Westland and Miriah Pisarski, 19, of the city of Wayne are each charged with first-degree premeditated murder, felony murder, using a gun during a felony and larceny.

Judge Michael Gerou entered not-guilty pleas for them Friday in 35th District Court and denied bond. They are being held in the Wayne County Jail.

LaBita's body was found Monday evening by officers who had been dispatched to his house for a welfare check. He was on the floor, with a gunshot wound to the head.

"Our detectives began working this case around the clock," Plymouth Township Chief Tom Tiderington said after the suspects were ar-

raigned. "We began interviewing a number of people."

The chief said phone records and tips from other law enforcement agencies and the public led police to Nutt. He had been acquainted with LaBita, Tiderington said, though Pisarski had not.

### Wednesday arrests

The shooting is believed to have taken place in the late afternoon of Oct. 24. Police say guns appear to have been stolen from LaBita's home and police are working to recover

them.

Both Nutt and Pisarski were arrested Wednesday. Tiderington said the investigation is continuing, though it doesn't appear anyone else was involved.

Lemus, LaBita's sister, cried softly during the arraignment. Later, she said she and her brother grew up nearby on the same street.

"It's horrible, horrible," said Lemus of Dearborn. She said she was upset by

See SLAYING, Page A2

## Psychological testing ordered for two stabbing suspects

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

The parents of a Plymouth Township teenager accused of plotting to kill them, as well as her sister and brother, reiterated their support for her Friday as the girl and a co-defendant were ordered to undergo psychological evaluations.

Jeffrey and Laurene Sikorski said they want to see daughter Rokšana, 15, get well, but also ensure their home is safe for themselves and their two younger children.

Rokšana stabbed her 12-year-old brother in the throat early Oct. 17, with boyfriend Michael Rivera allegedly texting instructions from outside and also tried to stab her sister. The boy is expected to fully recover.

The two were arrested in Detroit hours after the attack.

"We still stand by her. ... We care about her," Laurene Sikorski told reporters in 35th District Court, after Judge Michael Gerou ordered Rokšana and Rivera, 23, to undergo psychological examinations to determine if they are competent to stand trial.

Jeffrey Sikorski added that he doesn't expect Rokšana, who is being held in the Wayne County juvenile detention facility, to come home for a long time.

### Multiple felonies

She is charged as an adult with one count of assault with intent to murder, four counts of conspiracy to commit murder, one count of felonious assault and one count of using a computer to commit a crime. Rivera, of Detroit, is charged with four counts of conspiracy to murder, one count of assault with intent to murder and one count of felonious assault.

Rivera and Rokšana reportedly ran away together briefly



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See SUSPECTS, Page A2 Rokšana Sikorski, 15, waits Friday for the start of her preliminary hearing.

## Clerks predict greater voter turnout

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

With absentee voting on the upswing, elections officials in Plymouth and Plymouth Township are expecting an increased voter participation rate for Tuesday's gubernatorial election.

Plymouth Clerk Linda Langmesser and Plymouth Township Clerk Nancy Conzelman both noted an increased interest in absentee voting in their communities, with more absentee ballots returned as of Friday than had been returned at the same point in the 2010 election, which gave Gov. Rick Snyder his first term.

Snyder, a Republican, is battling challenger Mark Schauer, a Democrat and a former state legislator and U.S. congressman, for the governor's mansion Tuesday. City and township voters will also be voting in U.S. House of Representatives and Michigan Legislature races, helping choose a Wayne County Commission member and voting in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education and Plymouth District Library Board of Trustees races.

About 1,300 absentee ballots had been issued in Plymouth as of noon Friday, up more than 150 from four years ago, and just over 5,000 absentees had been issued in the township as of about 2 p.m., up about 800 over the number issued by the Friday before the 2010 election.

"They're coming in as we speak," said Langmesser, who noted a pickup in the return rate. In both communities, about 72 percent of the absentee ballots issued had been returned by Friday.

Langmesser forecasted a 48-percent election participation rate among the city's roughly 7,200 voters. That would be higher than the 40-

See CLERKS, Page A2

## Campaign cash flows in Plymouth-Canton school board race

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

When legislators voted to move school board elections to even-year Novembers a couple of years ago, many worried running them at the same time as statewide and national elections would cause an injection of money and politics into what is a non-partisan race.

A look at the financial statements of the candidates in the 2014 race for three seats on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education shows both have happened.

While two of the candidates - Amy Fava and Drex Morton - filed waivers stating they won't raise/spend \$1,000, the other six candidates have raised and spent between \$3,000 and nearly \$10,000.

And a review of the campaign finance reports shows a variety of political elements have thrown money into the campaign. The Michigan Education Association has donated \$500 each to the three candidates - Michael Siegrist, Kate Borninski and Kim Crouch - it has endorsed.

### Politics in

The Canton Democratic Club has backed Siegrist (\$1,500), Borninski (\$1,000) and Crouch (\$500), while the Plymouth Democratic Club has given all three each \$250.

The Wayne 11th Congressional District Republicans, meanwhile, have made modest \$100 contributions to both Estelle Oliansky and Tom Kelly.

With nearly \$10,000, Siegrist has gotten the most contributions and has spent nearly



BRAD KADRICH

See BOARD, Page A3 The eight candidates for three seats on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education are taking different approaches to campaign funding.



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## CLERKS

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percent turnout seen in Plymouth in 2010.

In the township, just over 59 percent of the electorate participated in 2010 and Conzelman said this year's turnout will likely be higher.

Conzelman and Langmesser said significant numbers of voters were using absentee ballot applications that had been sent to them by political parties.

"People are coming in now and they tend to

vote them right here and return them," Conzelman said.

Absentee ballots previously issued can be returned to the clerk's office in voters' respective communities Monday or Tuesday, but any absentees issued Monday must be voted in the office and returned. Polling places will be open Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; anyone in line by 8 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

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## SLAYING

Continued from Page A1

the youth of defendants Nutt and Pisarski. "I look at them and they're, they're just kids," she said.

Lemus praised the

police for the investigation and quick arrests and the community for its tips and support. "They've all been very, very kind," she said.

Her brother was well-known in the area, Lemus said. A neighbor, Gordon Smith, said Wednesday LaBita had retired about

10 years ago from Dunn Steel.

LaBita lived alone. His wife Myrtle died in 2012 and their daughter, Sherry Ann LaBita, died in 2008.

Lemus said there will be no funeral services and that her brother's remains will be cremat-

ed. A private luncheon for friends and neighbors is planned.

Nutt and Pisarski are due back in district court for a preliminary hearing Friday, Nov. 14.

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## CORRECTION

A letter to the editor in the Oct. 30 *Observer* contained comments saying Plymouth Democrat Nate Smith-Tyge worked for John Conyers, has taken soft money and only recently moved from Traverse City.

Smith-Tyge points out he never worked for Conyers (he worked for John Dingell and Bart Stupak), has received no soft money, only direct monetary donations, and hasn't lived in Traverse City since 2000.

## SUSPECTS

Continued from Page A1

last summer and the parents tried to end the relationship. Charges against Rivera over that relationship - three charges of third-degree criminal sexual conduct and one of accosting a minor for immoral purposes - were dismissed Friday, pending further investigation, on the request of Jennifer Tink, an assistant county prosecutor.

Tink asked Gerou to order a psychological examination for Roksana, but defense attorney Leslie Posner protested.

"I found her to be the most intelligent, competent person who understands everything that's going on," Posner told Gerou. "She definitely could assist me with her defense."

Gerou, however, said that given Roksana's age, the possibility of a prison term of life if she is convicted and Posner's earlier statement that she may introduce the girl's psychology as a defense, he was ordering the examination.

Posner has said Roksana, who was adopted by the Sikorskis from Poland, suffered from the effects of a traumatic early childhood in her native country and was under Rivera's sway.

"There's nothing of her in that relationship," Posner told reporters outside the courtroom.

A psychological exam was also ordered for Rivera, who is being held in the county jail. Several



Laurene and Jeffrey Sikorski talk with the media after a hearing Friday.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

of his family members and supporters were in the courtroom and one woman was weeping as she looked at the defendant.

### Family stressed

Jeffrey and Laurene Sikorski were also in the courtroom. "She looked good today," Laurene Sikorski said of Roksana. The couple is allowed to have contact with Roksana, but her siblings are not.

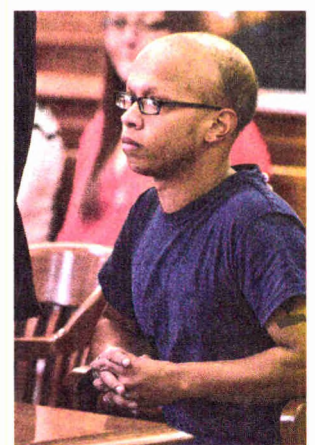
The family is "very stressed," Laurene Sikorski said. "My kids are still traumatized," she said. The children were adopted in early 2005, they said.

She said friends, neighbors and co-workers have been voicing their support. "They've just been wonderful, wonderful," she said.

Posner said the family is a happy one, but that the children "carry battle scars" from their early childhood in Poland.

Friday's court appearance was supposed to have been a preliminary hearing for Roksana and Rivera, but the hearing was rescheduled for Friday, Dec. 12, pending results of their psychological examinations.

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Michael Rivera, 23, in 35th District Court at his scheduled preliminary hearing.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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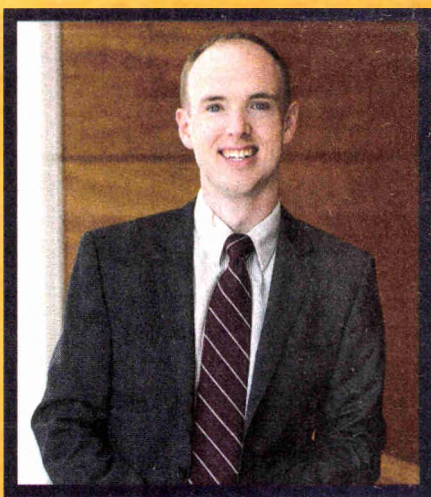
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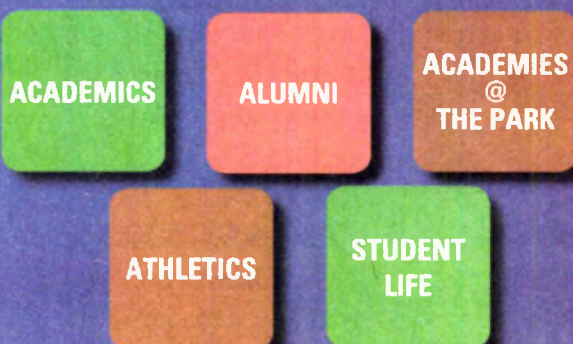
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## BOARD

Continued from Page A1

\$7,000, according to reports on file. Crouch, meanwhile, reports some \$7,900 in contributions and \$7,258 in expenditures.

Siegrist said the campaign of 2011, when local Republicans were active in support of a four-candidate slate that included current trustees Mike Maloney and Mark Horvath, showed him things were changing. That campaign, Siegrist said, included attack ads and even a television commercial.

"A television commercial in a school board race is unheard of," Siegrist said. "It's a volunteer position. When I ran for library board, I spent something like \$400 of my own money and that was it. Politics has crept into the library board the same way it has crept into the school board."

The leanest campaign is being run by Oliansky, whose reported contributions of \$3,100 is the lowest. She's also spent the least, some \$2,900.

### Money ball

According to pre-general election reports filed with the Wayne County Clerk's office, here's a look at how the candidates are doing financially:

» **Kate Borninski - Contributions:** \$7,515. Her biggest contributions came from the Plymouth and Canton Democratic Clubs and the MEA. She's also gotten \$1,000 from Massachusetts resident Susan Cnudde (her mom). **Expenses:** \$4,140. Predictably, her biggest expenses are some \$2,500 to Inland Press for campaign brochures and \$850 to Detroit-based Sawicki and Sons for lawn signs.

» **Kim Crouch - Contributions:** \$7,916. She's given herself \$1,000, she's loaned the campaign \$1,471 and received

in-kind contributions from her campaign treasurer (and fellow board member) Sheila Paton. She got the \$500 from the Canton Dems, \$250 from the Plymouth Dems and \$500 from the MEA. **Expenses:** \$7,258. She's spent \$2,100 with Main Office Mailers, \$1,400 with King Media for graphic design, \$970 to Alpha Graphics for brochures and nearly \$500 to the U.S. Postal Service for mailing.

» **Tom Kelly - Contributions:** \$7,017. His biggest contributions have come from fellow candidates Turner and Oliansky, each of whom are on his report for \$1,500 contributions. He loaned himself \$1,700 and got \$1,000 from his brother John Kelly, who lives in New Mexico. **Expenses:** \$3,510. His biggest expenses came in the form of a donation to the Wayne 11th District Republicans and more than \$2,200 to Casual Refinishing in Redford, a company owned by current

school board Trustee Mike Maloney.

### Politics out

The \$1,500 each from Oliansky and Turner came because the three, running as a slate, simply bundled their money together. The payment to Maloney's company was reimbursement for mailing costs, Kelly said.

"We pooled our money together and it just happened to end up in mine," Kelly said. "(Maloney) handled the mailing for us and got a receipt from the post office and we wrote him a check to cover it."

» **Estelle Oliansky - Contributions:** \$3,125. Oliansky has loaned herself some \$2,500 and gotten smaller contributions from the 11th District Republicans, Canton Township Trustee Pat Williams and Sharon Lollo of the Rattle With Us Tea Party group. **Expenses:** \$2,900. Aside from the transfer to Kelly's campaign, Oliansky's biggest expenses are to

Sawicki and Sons (\$1,000) for lawn signs and to Night Owl Printing (\$1,700) for brochures.

» **Michael Siegrist - Contributions:** \$9,090. His biggest individual contribution came from his campaign treasurer and fellow Kiwanis Club member Michael Dani (\$700), while his sister Amy Imes of Texas and family friend Vince Lee each donated \$500. **Expenses:** Nearly \$7,000 (as of this report). He spent some \$2,500 on printing and mailing costs with Inland Press, \$1,800 on campaign signs with Sawicki and Sons and \$300 each on online advertising and phone calling.

It's a lot of money, but Siegrist, acknowledging it as a necessary part of campaigning these days, said he doesn't mind spending it.

"I knew after what happened in 2011 the integrity of the school board had to be protected, so I knew I was going to have to raise that kind

of money," he said. "If it takes \$9,000 to protect the integrity, I'm going to protect it."

» **Don Turner - Contributions:** \$3,305. Turner is running a largely self-financed campaign. Aside from a \$1,000 donation from Canton Township Trustee Pat Williams, Turner's campaign is largely financed with an \$1,800 loan he gave his own campaign. **Expenses:** \$3,302. His largest expenses were the \$1,500 he kicked into the pot with Kelly and Oliansky and \$850 to Alpha Graphics for campaign materials.

"The limited amount of support I've gotten is from all over the spectrum, some friends who insisted on donating money," Turner said. "It's a non-partisan seat and financial support shouldn't come from political parties. This is a seat ... let's keep the politics out of it."

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## Nutrition chief named to state post

Kristen Hennessey, director of nutrition services for both the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and Livonia Public Schools, is the new president of the 1,600-member School Nutrition Association of Michigan for the 2014-15 school year. Hennessey assumed the leadership of the organization at its recent annual meeting near Traverse City.



Hennessey

The mission of the School Nutrition Association of Michigan is to advance the quality of school meal programs through education and

advocacy. It also seeks to empower its members to advance nutrition and promote healthy lifestyles for Michigan's school children. The group is associated with the School Nutrition Association, a national organization.

"We're very proud of Kristen for her leadership of this state group," said Dr. Michael Meissen, superintendent of Plymouth-Canton schools. "She will provide strong direction on the state and national levels. We also are very fortunate to have her leading the way in our school nutrition program at Plymouth-Canton."

Among her responsibilities in her director of nutrition services position are managing 200

food-service employees and forecasting and managing a \$10 million budget. She also is responsible for procuring all services and equipment used annually by the Nutrition Department, ensuring compliance with federal regulations and managing the benefit-eligibility program for parents.

She also has been asked to travel to Washington, D.C., in the near future to discuss the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 so it will be re-authorized.

Hennessey is a graduate of Grand Valley State University and has been in the school nutrition industry for more than two decades, serving 17 school districts over her career.



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## Military vets get helping hand at Schoolcraft

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Lawrence Smith of Canton served 22 years in the U.S. Army, from 1983 to 2005. His military service included time as a helicopter mechanic. He served in Egypt, Germany and all over the U.S.

Smith, now a Detroit Police Department officer of 16 years, returned to school at Schoolcraft College, graduating with honors in 2012 with an associate's degree in criminal justice. He tips his hat to Pam Paxton-Keehner, Veterans Services coordinator at Schoolcraft.

"She's the best I've ever run into," Smith said of Paxton-Keehner. "She's very good. She really was there to help you at all times. She's still my friend. We still talk."

Smith, 51, is now at Eastern Michigan University and will graduate from EMU with honors with a bachelor's degree in public safety administration this December. His wife Kawana and Paxton-Keehner both encouraged his return to school.

Smith and his wife are parents of three sons. He recalled "being in school with a lot of teenagers" as an adult, but also helping those young people with life skills.

"My study habits were tested," he said. "It came out all right." He also praises Eastern Michigan, saying, "EMU has been good to me," and has a similar staffer to help with veterans benefits.

"Going back to school was a great experience," Smith said. "I wouldn't



Pam Paxton-Keehner is Veteran Services coordinator at Schoolcraft.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

trade it for the world."

Other veterans, including those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, also benefit from Paxton-Keehner's expertise. Schoolcraft recently expanded its Veterans Services facility, to coincide with Veterans Day Nov. 11. A ceremony, open to the public, will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, to celebrate the expanded Veterans Resource Center in Room 240, upstairs in the McDowell Center on the Livonia campus, on Haggerty north of Six Mile.

"It's really nice they have a place they can call their own," said Paxton-Keehner, who started as Veterans Services coordinator for Schoolcraft in spring 2009, right around the Post-9/11 GI Bill.



Welcome to the Veterans Resource Center at Schoolcraft College.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paxton-Keehner and colleagues in Student Services work with many Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and others,

about 220 now. She noted servicemen and women get an out-processing on discharge from the service, but the information

can be a lot to process. "A lot of them have not even applied for their benefits," she said. "We can take them through that process." She'd worked before in admissions and can help with that.

Financial aid is through another Schoolcraft office, although Paxton-Keehner can answer questions and help resolve issues regarding paperwork and eligibility.

She shows with pride the large-screen TV and comfy chairs for veterans to relax and socialize. Nearby is the study area with four computers, with fax and printer access.

She said her vision is to cover three areas with the center, construction for which took place this summer and early fall: education, veterans and community resources. She's glad to have the capable help of Reginald J. Rogers, a VetSuccess on Campus counselor who visits Schoolcraft each Tuesday and Friday morning.

"He has extensive background," Paxton-Keehner said of Rogers, who also works at several other area colleges and universities. Rogers works heavily on vocational rehabilitation issues, the employment picture and has a desk at the Veterans Resource Center of Schoolcraft.

Paxton-Keehner can be reached at 734-462-4351 or pkeeher@schoolcraft.edu. She serves as the veterans academic adviser and knows VA requirements they must meet for course planning.

"I hope they take advantage of it," she said

of the veterans and dependents. "The ones that have been up here and seen it really like it."

She finds veterans often choose criminal justice, fire service, EMT careers and some nursing. "They like the helping industries," Paxton-Keehner said.

The veterans under the newer legislation of 2009 get housing, books and supplies assistance, with Schoolcraft receiving tuition payments for the veterans directly from the VA. That's been helpful, she said. "The veterans can start classes with no out-of-pocket expenses," she added.

"All they have to do is walk through the door," said Paxton-Keehner, who works with her Student Services colleagues to "make it as smooth as possible."

Outside Room 208 in McDowell, you'll see the seals for the branches of the U.S. military by the door. Schoolcraft officials are excited about the Nov. 11 ceremony, at which alumnus Lawrence Smith will speak, along with Conway Jeffress, college president, and Jim Fausone, a Schoolcraft board member whose legal practice is heavily with veterans.

"It was important to our president. Serving veterans is important for the college," Schoolcraft spokesman Frank Ruggiero said, adding there are many veterans now.

Paxton-Keehner held up a T-shirt with the Schoolcraft logo and the word "veteran" for the Nov. 11 ceremony. "I love working with the veterans," she said. "It is so personally rewarding."

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**Brian A Vinton, MD**  
**M. H. Raslan, MD, FCCP**  
**Sandy Wright, RRT**

Join us to learn about managing symptoms, medication utilization and home therapies.

To register for this FREE event, please call

**800.543.WELL (9355)**

Seating is limited and registration is required.

**DATE:** Wednesday, November 5, 2014

**TIME:** 6 – 8 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Oakwood Hospital – Wayne  
Conference Room 2  
33155 Annapolis Street  
Wayne, MI 48184

Enter at the West Entrance  
Valet parking will be available at no charge

*A complimentary light dinner will be served.*



**Brian Vinton, MD** completed his medical education at Wayne State University School of Medicine. He completed his Family Medicine Internship and Residency at Oakwood Hospital – Wayne.

*Dr. Vinton will be discussing signs, symptoms and daily management of early stage disease.*



**M. H. Raslan, MD, FCCP** is Board Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine (Pulmonary Diseases), and American Board of Internal Medicine (Sleep Medicine). He completed his medical education and Internal Medicine Residency at University of Damascus School of Medicine, Internal Medicine Residency at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and Pulmonary Fellowship at Sinai Hospital/DMC.

*Dr. Raslan will be discussing signs, symptoms and management of chronic lung disease.*



**Sandy Wright, RRT** is a graduate of Ferris State University with an Associate's Degree in Allied Health. She is a Registered Respiratory Therapist and started the Pulmonary Rehabilitation program here at Oakwood Wayne. She has been Manager of Respiratory Care at OH-Wayne for the past 16 years.

*Sandy Wright will be discussing pulmonary rehabilitation.*

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**Volunteers (from left) Carly Maleki, Shawn Davies and Danielle Bushaw take time from handing out candy to pose for a photo during Summit Halloween, which sold out.**



**Ghouls and goblins greeted kids at the haunted house held at the Summit.**



**Canton resident Addison Colling poses with volunteer princess Blake Webster.**

# Summit event provides Halloween tricks, treats

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

Kira Stanely, a 7-year-old from Canton, had a pretty simple – perhaps even obvious – reason for coming Thursday to Canton's annual Halloween party at the Summit.

"You get candy," Kira said simply.

She wasn't the only one. Canton Township Leisure Services organizers said this year's event sold out in the pre-sale tickets, something they said hasn't happened before. This year's total of some 1,500 nearly doubled what was pre-sold a year ago. That meant no one could get to the ever-popular event by simply walking up, as has been done in the past.

"It's a great problem to have," Jon LaFever, recreation and facilities supervisor, said of the event's popularity. "It's all in one location, it's indoors and the kids walk out of here with a lot of cool stuff."

They streamed through the Summit by the hundreds, stopping along the way at 23 stations, each sponsored by a local business. The trick-or-treating was topped at the end of the walk by a thrilling haunted maze set up in the gym. Nervous kids grabbed the hands of equally nervous parents to get through the darkness filled with "surprises."

There were princesses to pose for pictures, there was a set from the popular movie *Frozen* that spewed snow out at the kids and there were staffers dressed in costume, all designed to make sure the kids had a great time.

Kelley Libby of Redford brought her daughter



**Piles of candy for the kids was being handed out as Megha Thumma and Reema Nair grab their goodies at the Summit Halloween event held Thursday in Canton.**

ter Cheyenne to trick or treat. Like Kira, Cheyenne loved "getting all the candy."

"It's amazing," said Libby, who came to the Summit with her sister, a Canton resident. "I love all the people dressed up. I got pictures with everyone."

LaFever said the Halloween event, with its sort of laid-back nature and tons of children, was a favorite for Leisure

Services staffers, who began coloring scenes and getting decorations ready as far back as August.

Staffer Julie Allen of Plymouth especially loves seeing the kids with their smiles.

"You can entertain such a large group of people in such a positive way," she said. "It's a very fun event."

[bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com)



**The Summit's own Bartlett the Beaver poses with Jake and Joslyn Roberts.**

### Stow & Go Self Storage Auction Notice

Pursuant to state law, Notice is hereby given that a public auction will be held at **STOW & GO SELF STORAGE, 41999 ANN ARBOR ROAD, PLYMOUTH, MI** on **November 8, 2014 at 10:00 am**, on past due tenants listed below. The entire contents of the following units will be auctioned and sold to the highest bidder on each individual unit. **CASH ONLY! DESCRIPTION IN BRIEF SUMMARY OF ITEMS, MAY OR MAY NOT CONTAIN MORE OR LESS ITEMS.**

**Unit #327- JOHN LEZOTEE, 14936 Garden St., Livonia, MI 48154**  
Misc. building material, Cement supplies & tools, shop vac, vacuum, snow sled, gas cans, (2) snowblowers, bed rails, Snow shovel, misc. wood, and misc. items

**Unit #359- BOB WARREN, P.O. Box 700032, Plymouth, MI 48170**  
Stove, desk chair, washer & dryer, mt bike, file cabinet, window air conditioner, xmas decorations, and misc. items.

**Unit #608- JAMES FULLERTON, 599 Adams, Plymouth, MI 48170**  
Night stand, dresser & mirror, bed frame, mattress, fan, rug, (4) kitchen chairs, (2) couches, end tables, xmas tree and misc. items.

**Unit # 726- JAMES ALRED, 26235 Ohio Ave., Novi, MI 48374**  
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SALE DATE IS NOVEMBER 8, 2014 AT 10:00 AM

Publish: November 2 and 6, 2014

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# Wayne-Westland's Bright Futures turns 'Lights On' its after-school programs

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

The lights were on and everyone was home, so to speak for, at Franklin Middle School in Wayne, where parents and students from four Wayne-Westland schools celebrated the work of the after-school Bright Futures program.

The celebration, held Thursday evening, was meant to send a message to Washington about the importance of after-school programs.

The Afterschool Alliance organized Lights On Afterschool to draw attention to the many ways after-school programs support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things. The event gives students a chance to showcase the skills they learn and talents they develop at their after-school programs and to send the message that millions more kids need quality after-school programs.

"Lights On Afterschool helps raise awareness as to where the funding comes from and how important it is to keep the lights on," said Maria Mitter, director of Wayne-Westland's Bright Futures program.

The evening included a pizza dinner and a variety of activities, hosted by the Bright Future programs at Adams, Hoover, Franklin and Wayne Memorial High School. They were asked to color paper light bulbs and write a message about the importance of the after-school programs that will be mailed to state and national lawmakers. Also being sent is a video in which students share their views on why Bright Futures is so important.

In its eighth year in Wayne-Westland, the after-school program is

available in 10 schools at the elementary, upper elementary, middle and secondary levels. Because the program is a licensed daycare provider, it's limited to 50 students at the elementary and middle school levels, while the high school programs are drop-ins.

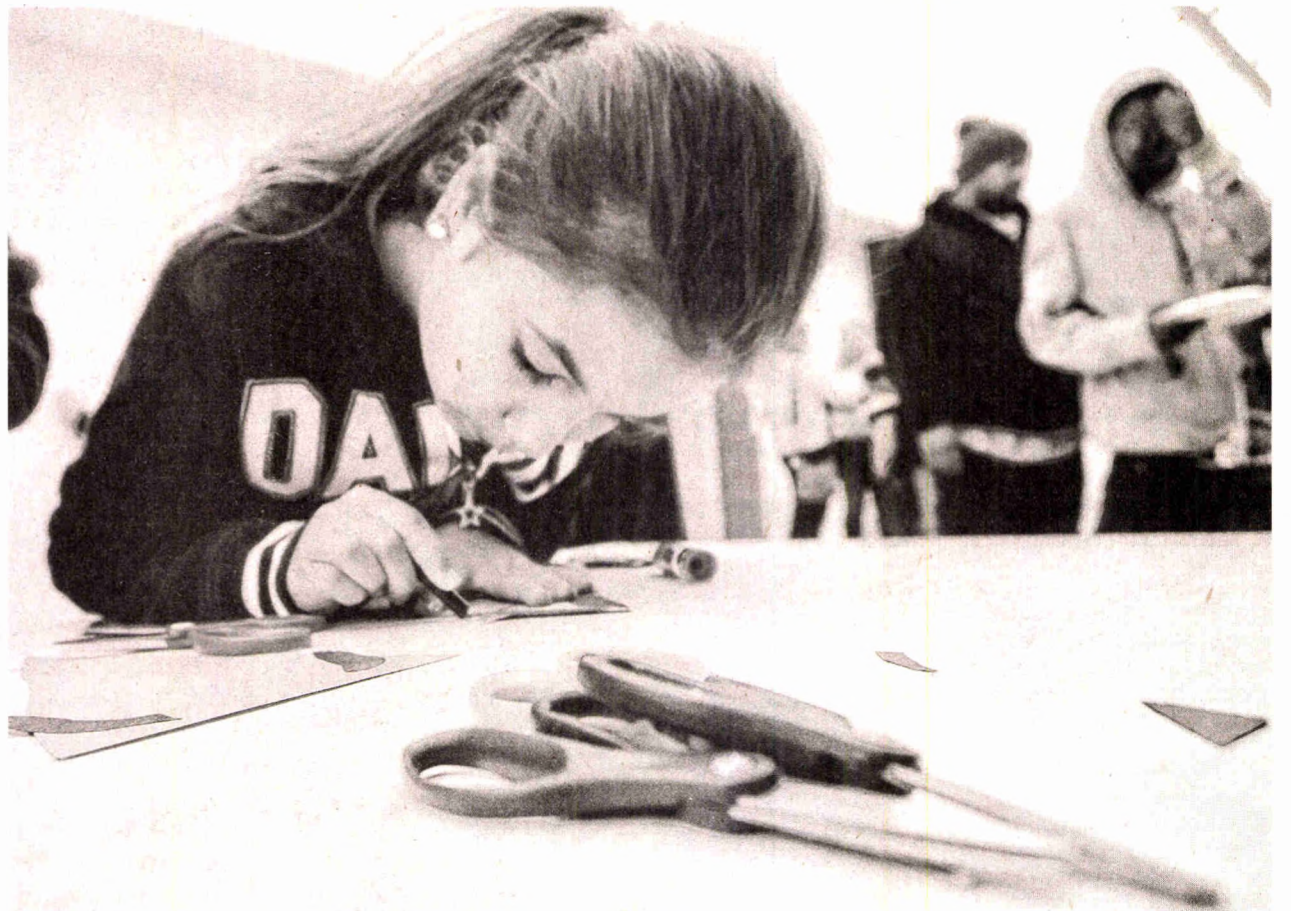
### Getting started

A part of Eastern Michigan University's Institute for the study of Children, Families and Communities, the programs are funded by federal 21st Century Community Learning Center grants through the Michigan Department of Education. It was started by program director Lynn Malinoff in three Wayne-Westland and two Willow Run schools in 2007. It's now expanded to 20 sites in the Wayne-Westland, Ypsilanti and Romulus school districts.

In Wayne-Westland, Bright Futures reaches 600 students, with waiting lists for its elementary and middle school programs. It's offered for 32 weeks during the school year and six weeks during the summer and features a variety of clubs that delve into such things as healthy cooking, fashion design, leadership, poetry, sewing, photography, robotics and physical fitness. They also can take advantage of homework help.

Kathy Seaton of Wayne was concerned the combination of school and the after-school program at Taft-Galloway would be too long for her 8-year-old granddaughter, Hannah Thomason. Just the opposite is true.

"My granddaughter loves it, she loves the cooking," Seaton said. "She went to the summer program and was hooked. I thought she'd get half-



Bill Bresler | Staff Photographer  
Bailey Fallows works on her project, a monster glyph, at the Halloween Math Glyphs station hosted by the Taft-Galloway Bright Futures program.

way through it and get bored, but she wanted to be in it. I don't know if she likes the advisers or doing her homework there."

Nicole Martin's two daughters have similar opinions. Second-grader Jordyn loves all of the clubs; her older sister Maryssa favors Bricks for Kids, a club that turns Lego blocks in to electronic devices.

"My youngest is a firecracker and since she started going there, she has been behaving," Martin said. "She has a lot of energy and needs a lot of extra time. She was jealous of her sister because she got to be in it last year. This is really a good program."

### Continuing on

Middle school Bright Futures alumni Sariahok Bolden and Kennedy Merriman are continuing in the program as ninth-graders at Wayne Memorial High School. Bolden's mother suggested she go when she was in seventh grade.

"I didn't want to, but after I went, I liked it," Bolden said. "The people are the best part and the homework help most definitely."

Merriman has been in the program since eighth grade and enjoys the cooking program and Real Talk in which stu-



Bill Bresler | Staff Photographer  
Johnny Fuller and daughter Alyssa Fuller, 8, decorate a cookie at the Lights On celebration.

dents get together and talk about whatever they want.

Both teens agree that the focus on grit and perseverance, based on the work of Angela Duckworth, has helped them in transitioning to high school. It's helping them

with their grades and in handling the volume of homework they get.

"We do a lot of work around perseverance and getting outside your comfort zone," Malinoff said.

Hoover Elementary is the newest addition to the

Bright Futures family. Led by Brett Tavana, the program is starting small with 20-22 students and will build up to a full 50 students by the end of the school year. It already has a waiting list.

A graduate of Wayne Memorial High School, Tavana is student teaching in Wayne-Westland and always wanted to come back work in the district.

"I see the potential, I know the families," he said. "For the first quarter, half of the clubs have an academic focus. The math club has the students working with board games and the science club is working on projects. The writing club emphasis is on facilitating youngsters who want to be writers, but don't know how to start."

Malinoff worked the crowd, asking parents and students about the program and what it means to them. Their positive feedback is music to her ears.

"Now that we're at all levels, we're able to start with the younger students and work with them long-term," Malinoff said. "We're now beginning to see the results at the high school level."

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The two day appearance of the rash represents a prior exposure to the drug or another like it; the reaction comes quickly because the drug antibodies are already present. The ten day delayed appearance means the body was making antibodies and it took that long for the antibodies to develop and attach to the drug.

When itching accompanies the rash, the patient has reason to feel annoyed and threatened. When mouth sores accompany the rash, the physician may become alarmed as it means both pain and difficulty eating and swallowing.

The immediate treatment is to stop the offending drug. Whether the patient will receive a heavy dose of prednisone is a decision a physician makes on an assessment of the seriousness of the allergic reaction.

Adverse reactions are different. They are responses by the body from continual exposure to the drug; the organs most often involved are stomach, liver and kidneys. The reason doctors obtain monthly or other periodic blood samples is to monitor for such changes. In the case of medications used in rheumatology conditions such as methotrexate or allopurinol, the liver is at risk. Checking the status of the liver via periodic blood tests allows the doctor to stop or lower the dose of medication if laboratory results reveal liver irritation has occurred.

LO-00021764

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

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Request Approval of a Special Land Use  
**DATE OF HEARING:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014  
**TIME OF HEARING:** 7:00 P.M.  
**PLACE OF HEARING:** Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Planning Commission of the Plymouth Charter Township has received an application requesting **SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL** for the Rayyan Center mosque on Tax ID No. R-78-010-99-0002-712, pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99. The property is located south of Five Mile Road and east of Pilot Drive. The site is zoned IND (Industrial).

**Application:** 2148-1014 **Applicant:** Rayyan Center

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** For parcel descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID No. R-78-010-99-0002-712

The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, ext. 5. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth Township, MI 48170.

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

**KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLISH: November 2, 2014

LO-00021920 4/7





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The trial will start in late 2013 and run for up to 5 years. More than 7,500 people in approximately 20 countries will participate.

References: 1. International Diabetes Federation. IDF Diabetes Atlas Update 2012. 5th edition. www.idf.org/diabetesatlas/5e/Update2012. Accessed May 2013.



**To join the DEVOTE trial you must:**

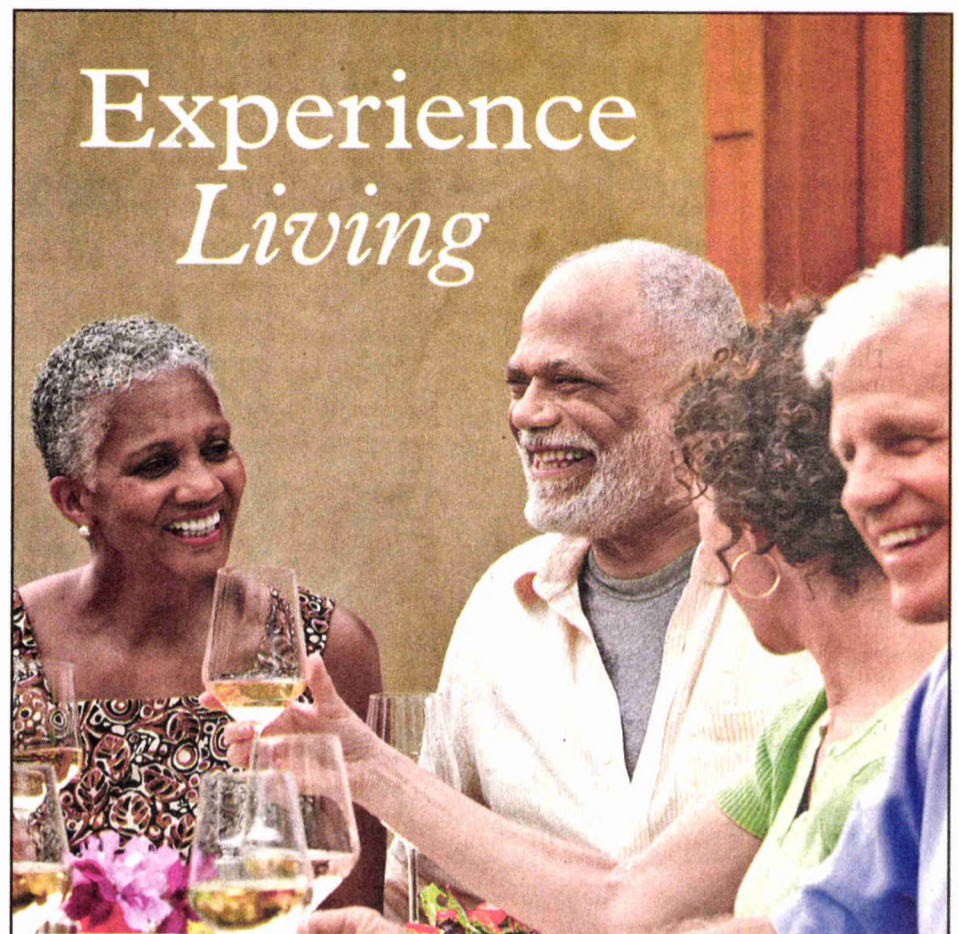
- Be 50 years old or older
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- Be able to come for regular site visits and have telephone contact in between

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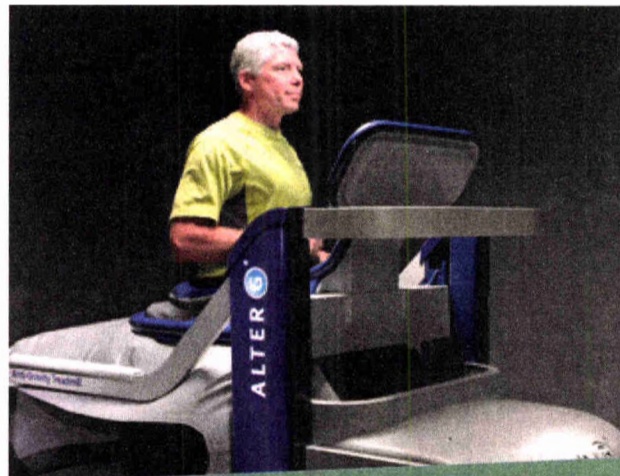
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# Gov. Snyder visits Novi's Fox Run for Q&A

By **Lonnie Huhman**  
Staff Writer

During Gov. Rick Snyder's campaign stop Wednesday in Novi for a question-and-answer town hall with residents at Fox Run, he detailed where he believes the state has come from since he's been in office and how he wants to continue taking it in the right direction.

He also answered some tough questions.

Snyder, who was accompanied by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, said Michigan under his administration's guidance has risen from the ashes of a difficult decade.

"Think back to 2009; we were a broken state," he said to a packed auditorium inside Fox Run's Belmont Clubhouse.

But through strategies like reforming the tax code to balancing four

solid budgets in a row, he says Michigan is now on solid ground.

The theme for Snyder's talk was that Michigan is on the road to recovery and the general atmosphere his administration has helped cultivate has played a big part. He cited successes like adding nearly 300,000 new private-sector jobs and unemployment being at its lowest in six years.

"We need to keep going," said Snyder, who has a 10-point plan ([www.rickformichigan.com](http://www.rickformichigan.com)) for his potential second term to do things like create more jobs, revitalize the education system and reinvent government.

Calley said getting the state on the right fiscal footing was the first priority undertaken to help set the table.

"I think we've helped

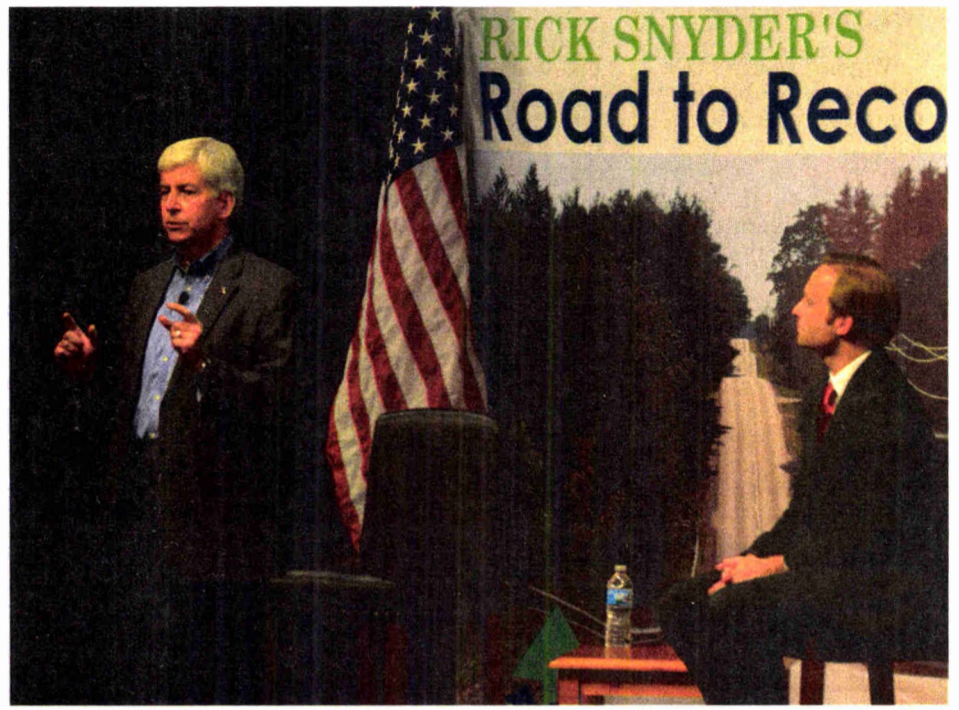
create a solid foundation and now it's time to focus on the future and the initiatives that will create more positive outcomes," Calley said.

### Tough questions

The Q&A session was a serious one, with Fox Run residents asking questions about a range of topics.

One pertained to gay and lesbian rights and was asked by a woman who said her daughter will not move to Michigan because "she has no rights here."

Snyder said this question has two areas: marriage law and employment rights under the Elliott-Larsen civil rights act. He said he's asked the state Legislature to review Elliott-Larsen to see what should be done under this act to ensure a fair approach to employment. However, for mar-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder spoke Wednesday to a gathering at Novi's Fox Run Village.

riage he said he follows the state constitution. Because of the vote of the people a decade ago banning same-sex marriage, he adheres to that law as it is currently written.

He added though that the people, if so desired, could vote on this issue again. But in the short term, he said this issue will play out in the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. Once the judges make a decision, he will respect it.

"I will follow what the law is as it's defined in Michigan," he said and assured the mother he understands.

"And again, there's an issue and I appreciate your thoughts ... there's a lot of the business community speaking up in

addition to parents that are concerned about their kids," he said.

Another question was about roads and what can be done to fix them.

Snyder said the state neglected the roads for far too long and is now paying for it with busted vehicles and a lot of frustration. He said it must be a priority to implement a plan for reinvestment into the rehabilitation of the state's roads.

"If we don't start investing more, our roads are not going to get better," he said.

One resident asked about the environment and what will be his policies toward ensuring the health of the Great Lakes and on fracking, a method of extracting oil.

He said Michigan

needs to be proactive in making sure the waters around the state are safe, while also pursuing initiatives like reducing coal consumption. He also said Michigan is an example of the responsible use of fracking and has no big issues with it. One plan he hopes to start during a second term is a comprehensive energy policy.

Overall, those in attendance welcomed the visit and dialogue.

"I liked the upbeat and positive approach rather than attacking your opponent and cutting them down," Fox Run resident Irv Boynton said. "I was impressed."

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## Meeting set for road projects centered on Beck, Cherry Hill

Wayne County's Department of Public Services, in cooperation with Canton Township and Plymouth Township, will hold a public information meeting 6-8 p.m. Nov. 5 in the Walnut Room of Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, in Canton to discuss road improvement projects on Beck and Cherry Hill roads.

The Beck Road project in both townships covers 1.76 miles between Warren Road and Ann Arbor Trail. Among the improvements between Warren and Ann Arbor Road will be add-

ing a left-turn lane to expand the road from two lanes to three. There also will be right-turn lanes, geometric improvements at intersections, storm sewer improvements and sidewalk installation. The stretch between Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail will be resurfaced.

The Cherry Hill Road project in Canton covers 1.15 miles between just west of Beck Road to just east of Canton Center Road. The road will be widened from two lanes to three, with a left-turn lane added. There will be

drainage improvements and sidewalk installation.

"It's always productive to have public input on projects like these," said Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price, R-Canton. "These two areas continue to experience an increased amount of traffic and it is important that they both receive an upgrade to maintain a safe drive for all commuters."

Both projects are scheduled for spring and summer 2015.

Call the Wayne County Department of Public Services at 313-224-7600 for more information.

## Fall colors



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

If the weather isn't an indication, the changing of the colors of the state's foliage should be a reminder that fall has arrived in force. Fall's arrival also serves as a reminder to turn back your clocks Sunday, if you haven't done so already.

## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### UNITED WAY VOLUNTEERS

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Nov. 15, 7:30 a.m.

**Location:** Plymouth and Canton areas; check-in at Plymouth First United Methodist Church

**Details:** Plymouth Community United Way still needs volunteers to clean yards and do light chores in Plymouth and Plymouth and Canton townships. The deadline to register has been extended to Thursday, Nov. 13. Volunteers will meet on the day of the event at Plymouth First United Methodist Church for a continental breakfast and instructions for making a difference by helping a senior citizen or person with a disability. Volunteers are asked to bring rakes, garden tools and gloves, and have their own transportation to travel between homes. PCUW will supply the yard waste bags which will be distributed at the church. All ages are welcome, but those under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult.

**Contact:** To volunteer, call Randi Williams at 734-453-6879, ext. 7, or email randi.williams@pcuw.org.

### 'MARY POPPINS' AUDITIONS

**Date/Time:** Nov. 9-10.

**Location:** Forever After Productions Rehearsal Studio, 50429 Independence, Canton

**Details:** Forever After Productions announces auditions for

*Mary Poppins*. Interested actors must be ages of 6-22 on Nov. 11 to be cast in this production. The production will be on stage March 26-31 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

**Contact:** For more information and the audition packet, go to [www.iheartforeverafter.com](http://www.iheartforeverafter.com) or call 734-547-5156.

### BUSINESS PANEL

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.

**Location:** Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

**Details:** The Plymouth District Library presents "Top Mistakes Business Owners Make - Solutions for you and your business." Is there a business strategy you've overlooked? As a business owner, you've had to work hard to build your business and work hard to maintain it. To assist you, this workshop features a panel of local professionals to answer your questions.

The workshop features Richard C. Nash, CPA, LIC, business insurance; David J. R. Waymann, business coach and adviser; Paula C. Swain, CFP, financial consultant; Wendell Brandt, M&A adviser; John T. Carter, business attorney; Shannon T. Maloney, retirement plan specialist; and Ted Maitland, employee benefits, on the Affordable Care Act.

**Contact:** Register for this free program by contacting the library at 734-453-0750, ext. 4, or online at [plymouthlibrary.org](http://plymouthlibrary.org)

### ART RECEPTION

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Nov. 8, 7-9 p.m.

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

**Details:** The PCAC hosts an opening reception for Charles Stout's solo show, "Levels." The exhibit runs through November, with gallery hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, during public events and by appointment. Stout is an exhibit designer for the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum.

**Contact:** Call 734-416-4278 for details.

### CRAFT BAZAAR

**Date:** Saturday, Dec. 6.

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

**Details:** The Plymouth Historical Museum is accepting applications for its annual Juried Craft Bazaar. Applicants are required to submit photos of craft items for judges to select participants as there is a limit of crafters to five per category. Table rentals are \$30 each and most are eight feet wide, although there are some space variations. The museum is offering free admission that day for both museum patrons and Craft Bazaar shoppers. Crafters are requested to donate an item for the museum's raffle. The application is available at [www.plymouthhistory.org/cm/dpl/downloads/events/117/craft\\_show.pdf](http://www.plymouthhistory.org/cm/dpl/downloads/events/117/craft_show.pdf).

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## Pagan, Heise our picks in state House races

Voters in the state House 20th and 21st Districts in Tuesday's general election have contrasting fields to choose from.

In the 20th, which covers the Plymouths, Canton and the Wayne County portion of Northville, veteran Republican incumbent Kurt Heise seeks a third and final term against political newcomer Nate Smith-Tyge.

In the 21st, which covers Canton, Belleville and Van Buren, voters have to choose from two political newbies: Democrat Kristy Pagan and Republican Carol Ann Fausone.

### 20th District

In his four years, Heise has certainly made some votes with which we disagree. But we believe he's also been an effective state legislator and has done enough to earn a third and final term.

Heise is a comfortable passenger on the Gov. Rick Snyder train, toeing the party line with most of Snyder's wishes. He voted in favor of the tax on senior pensions, is fine with lifting the cap on charter schools and supported the push for right to work that happened behind locked capitol doors two years ago. We disagreed with Heise on all those issues.

But he's also done things to help his constituents, among them: Co-sponsored House Bill 5782, which would revise the foundation allowance and per-pupil funding formula and would bring additional state funding to both Plymouth-Canton and Northville schools; sponsored a bill that allowed Northville to sell the former Robert Scott Correctional Facility; and saying he'd support a review of Proposal A.

Heise chairs the criminal justice committee and is a member of the judiciary, election and ethics and transportation committees. He's also co-chair of the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking and has helped provide light and action on an issue law enforcement officials have said is a huge problem not only in Michigan, but nationwide.

We believe **Kurt Heise** has done enough for voters to return him to Lansing for his third and final term.

### 21st District

While both candidates walk the party line pretty finely, we recommend **Kristy Pagan** for the open seat being vacated by term-limited Democrat Dian Slavens. Pagan, associate director of development for Wayne State University Law School, has articulated a stronger argument on issues such as public education and social issues such as women's health and equality.

Pagan's stance on education sets her apart from Fausone. Pagan wants the cap on charter schools, for instance, to be restored; Fausone supports having no cap. They each stick to their claims about Gov. Rick Snyder's handling of education funding, Pagan repeating the Democrats' claim the governor has cut \$1 billion from education and Fausone saying public education funding has never been higher.

Fausone would have supported the abortion insurance rider pushed through; Pagan would repeal it. Pagan supports same-sex marriage; Fausone says marriage is "between a man and a woman," but supports benefits to same-sex partners. Fausone supports right to work and Pagan, whose family is a big believer in unions, pledges to work to repeal it.

Pagan would close corporate tax loopholes and reduce tax breaks for the wealthy to pay for things like repealing the pension tax and restoring the Earned Income Tax Credit, although the math isn't clear. She'd also add a yearly-use fee for alternative-fuel vehicles and shift the sales tax revenue generated from gas purchases from the general fund to the transportation fund. She would then maintain general fund revenue by "reducing tax breaks to large corporations and the very wealthy," while ensuring what our residents pay at the pump is directed toward fixing our roads.

Pagan grew up in Canton, graduated from Plymouth-Canton schools, got her bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University then earned a master's degree from George Washington University. She worked for several years for U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, helping the senator craft positions on issues such as higher education.

Fausone spent 36 years serving her country, becoming the first female brigadier general in Michigan Air National Guard history. She's still a very strong voice for veterans, a passionate speaker on veterans affairs and, as a nurse for some 40 years, on health issues. She would undoubtedly be a strong voice for her positions, should she be elected.

However, we believe Pagan's stronger stance on charter school regulation and her willingness to attack some of the back-door legislation – right to work and the abortion insurance rider, for instance – make **Kristy Pagan** the better choice for the 21st District.



Heise



Pagan

## Observer recommends Crouch, Borninski, Siegrist for school board

Voters in Tuesday's election for the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education will have some decisions to make, with six candidates seeking the two six-year terms and two others chasing the four-year seat.

Three candidates stand out enough to make the decision easier. Incumbent **Kim Crouch** is a clear choice for the four-year seat. To replace the departing Judy Mardigian and Adrienne Davis, the *Observer* recommends **Kate Borninski** and **Michael Siegrist** for the six-year terms.



Borninski

Crouch

Siegrist

thought process always include the phrase "best for students," which makes her an ideal board member.

### Six-year terms

Endorsing **Kate Borninski** is an easy call. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, did her graduate work at Eastern Michigan University and received her teacher certification in elementary education. She's recording secretary of the Parent Community School Council and co-chairs the new Parent Academy. She also sits on a variety of committees. She has three children in the district, making her a stakeholder in how the district performs. She understands budget issues and knows the board's role as the district's policy makers.

The fact she's done all of this work on behalf of the district even before she decided to seek election shows her commitment to the district and its students.

We believe the third seat should go

to **Michael Siegrist** who, despite his youth (at 31 he'd be by far the youngest trustee), has already proven his dedication to improving his community. Siegrist is a product of the Plymouth-Canton schools, which gives him a unique perspective on its successes and its challenges.

He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan. He served on the Canton Library Board for four years and, in his final year and despite his youth, served as that board's chair. In that capacity, he and the board were forced to make cuts to eliminate a deficit, something Siegrist will have to continue to do should he be elected to the school board.

He's a member of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, a charter signer of Plymouth-Canton Citizens for Diversity and Inclusion, served as chair of the Absentee Voter Counting Board in Canton and mentors adolescent children with substance abuse and addiction issues. He's done the research necessary to make sure he understands the issues facing the district. Siegrist can represent a new generation of school board trustees and we believe voters should give him the chance.

We recommend voters support **Kim Crouch, Kate Borninski and Michael Siegrist** in Tuesday's election.

## Slavens the right choice in state Senate 7th District

We believe voters in the state Senate 7th District – which serves Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville Township, Canton, Wayne and Livonia – should choose state Rep. **Dian Slavens** over Republican incumbent Patrick Colbeck when they go to the polls in Tuesday's general election.

The term-limited Slavens has been an effective state representative. In her first term, she piloted legislation that provided incentives for battery-makers to make Michigan their business home. Republicans essentially co-opted her effort to end life-time health benefits for legislators, but the measure passed nonetheless.

She may have had her best – and strongest – moment at the beginning of the current term when, against leadership and even party recommendation, she refused to support state Rep. Jase Bolger as Speaker of



Slavens

the House after he was implicated in a vote-rigging scandal before the 2012 election. It was a stance she knew – because leadership told her outright – would cost her politically, but she took it anyway.

Slavens is a strong supporter of public education and would support changes to the formula for financing public schools. While charter schools and cyber schools currently get the same foundation allowance as public schools, Slavens believes that because they don't have costs such as transportation, they shouldn't get the same allowance.

Colbeck, on the other hand, firmly believes that the cap should be eliminated to allow more charter schools to pop up and provide competition to local public schools.

While Colbeck eschews anything

that looks like a tax to fix roads, Slavens would look at things such as higher user fees for larger trucks and tweaking the user fee schedule. And while Colbeck refused to vote to make the Medicaid expansion effectively immediately, Slavens supported the move.

Colbeck is a stand-up guy who believes in what he's doing, makes his choices and backs them up with data he believes explains them. He explains his votes (explanations can be found on his Facebook page) and stands by what he says.

The district, which used to be a Republican stronghold, now leans more to the middle than it has in the past. And we believe Slavens comes closer to representing it than does Colbeck.

**Dian Slavens** gets our nod for the state Senate 7th District.

## Price is right for county commission seat

Wayne County Commissioner **Shannon Price** is seeking re-election to the seat he earned for the first time in 2012.

We believe Price, a Republican from Canton, deserves to retain his 10th District seat, which serves the city of Plymouth and Plymouth and Canton townships.

Price campaigned the first time around largely on a platform that promised transparency and, two years later, Wayne County has moved from a grade of D to an A-minus in transparency, while the Government Finance Officers Association has honored Wayne County with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its presentation of the



Price

2013 fiscal budget.

Price and other commissioners have worked to ensure local communities get their 15-percent share of the county's parks millage, a financial benefit to Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township. That money has been used for projects such as therapeutic programs at The Summit in Canton.

Price serves as vice chair of the county's public services committee. He's had a role in bringing road money to the community for improvements on Beck, on Cherry Hill (where Plymouth-Canton Communi-

ty Schools is building a new middle school next to a charter high school) and on Lilley.

As one of only two Republicans on the commission (Livonia's Laura Cox, now running for state representative, was the other), Price has provided an opposition voice to the heavily Democratic commission, but he's shown an ability to work in a non-partisan fashion.

Price has been on the commission for two years, has dealt with a variety of issues and earned a reputation for strong constituent service.

**Shannon Price** gets our nod in the Nov. 4 general election.

## McKenzie is Observer's choice for U.S. House

In the race to replace U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio in the 11th District, we believe voters should cast their ballots for Canton Democrat **Bobby McKenzie**.

Both men running – McKenzie and Republican David Trott – are earnest and well-meaning and both come off as wanting to do the best for their country, but with different definitions. The biggest difference between them, frankly, is money. Trott, who has donated millions to his own campaign, still had \$1.3 million Sept. 30, while McKenzie had \$168,000.



McKenzie

Both men are charismatic, have their respective party lines memorized and come across as the kind of person you'd invite over for a barbecue.

McKenzie is a thinker who talks fast, looks at an issue from all sides and devises a plan for success. He has a national security background that fits well with Michigan's military roots and geography as a border state. His work with the U.S. State Department started right out of college

and, though he's now doing it from the private sector, he still – until he gave it up to run for Congress – spent the bulk of his time analyzing political nuances around the world, largely in the Middle East.

While we believe Trott is sincere in his desire to help the state, we also believe McKenzie better reflects the broad makeup of the 11th District, which is a bit more moderate on social issues while remaining fiscally conservative.

We urge voters to cast their ballots for **Bobby McKenzie** in the U.S. House 11th District race.

### PLYMOUTH-CANTON LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Fausone best choice

I was very disappointed to see that the *Observer* chose to not endorse Carol Ann Fausone for state representative. I cannot understand your reasoning.

Carol Ann is the obvious choice to

be our state representative. She is the only person in this race who has hands-on experience. She exemplifies a life lived to serve others.

I am voting for Carol Ann Fausone for state representative because her experience is head and shoulders above the competition.

Fausone is an accomplished woman with a proven record of leadership and real-world experience. She worked her way up the military ranks and became the Michigan National Guard's first woman briga-

See LETTERS, Page A13



# LETTERS

Continued from Page A12

dier general. Fausone has also spent a lifetime in health care as a nurse. As a small business owner, Fausone is someone I can trust to promote policies that will benefit our community and our local businesses. When we go to the ballot box Nov. 4, we should take a close look at the resumes of each candidate. Fausone has balanced budgets in the public and private sector and knows what it takes to hold government accountable and be fiscally responsible. She is the only candidate with ready-to-go experience and a track record of standing up for people and families. Fausone is simply the best choice for our community.

**Mark Robinson**  
Canton

## Backs Borninski

If you want to fully participate as a citizen, please vote all the way down the ballot Nov. 4. It is the only way you can vote for a superlative candidate like Kate Borninski for our school board.

I have known Kate for over 15 years and know how committed she is to our schools. Kate has been deeply involved in our schools long before she decided to run for P-CCS school board. She also knows the schools as a parent of two in our schools now and in the past as a teacher. In addition to earning her teaching certification, she completed her student teaching in the TAG program.

Kate currently serves as the recording secretary of the Parent Community School Council, co-chairs Parent Academy, is on the Sex Education Advisory Committee and the P-CEP and Discovery Middle School Improvement Committees. Kate was the treasurer of Dodson Council, an Art Mom and served on the facilities Advisory Committee, Vote Yes P-CCS and more. Kate also has attended more school board meetings for years to simply stay informed and speak up when parents and kids needed a voice than I could count.

Kate is a candidate who has already been working on our school district's problems. Through her work on the Legislative Action Network, she has demonstrated she understands because state funding is not keeping up with the rate of inflation and because our district receives less state funding than the surrounding districts our school board must be willing to advocate for fair funding.

Kate has indicated in addition to advocacy and budgeting wisely, priority needs to be given to maintaining or lowering class sizes, especially in early elementary grades, as well as making sure all students have equitable educational opportunities. This is critical to the success of our children in school and in life beyond school. This has been thoroughly proven in the research on the effects of early education.

Lastly, Kate has advocated for strength-

ening communication between all of the stakeholders in the district (especially parents and the board) by ensuring that communication to stakeholders has a feedback loop.

The results of Kate's work on the board will be a school board that strives for maintaining or lowering class-sizes, focuses resources on programs like "Response to Intervention" to keep achievement moving upward and ensuring all students have equitable educational opportunities. They will strive to fairly and adequately fund our schools and for strong communication with all concerned parties. Look past the judicial candidates and past the "Community College Board of Trustees" for "Local School District," "Board Member" to find Kate Borninski.

**Tim Rorabach**  
Plymouth

## Community leaders

In the Oct. 26 Letters to the Editor, Sally Charson challenged us to use our vote "to keep politically motivated people out of our schools." Though I am certain that this is not realistic, I do applaud the goal from this self-proclaimed non-partisan.

Unfortunately, this election cycle does not allow us to vote out the main culprits of political misdeeds in our schools. In reality, "The M&M" school board members have done more to hinder the progress of our schools through their partisan agenda. As such, I would suggest that it is important to modify Ms. Charson's goal by using our vote this Nov. 4 to surround these politically motivated board members with thoughtful and dedicated leaders who work on behalf of our community with integrity.

Fortunately, we have a school board candidate who lives a commitment to our schools and community, Kate Borninski. As a professional educator and as a father, I value Kate's distinct school and community experiences and her personal understanding of the issues facing the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools as fundamental to being a board member who will safeguard our schools from destructive partisan agendas.

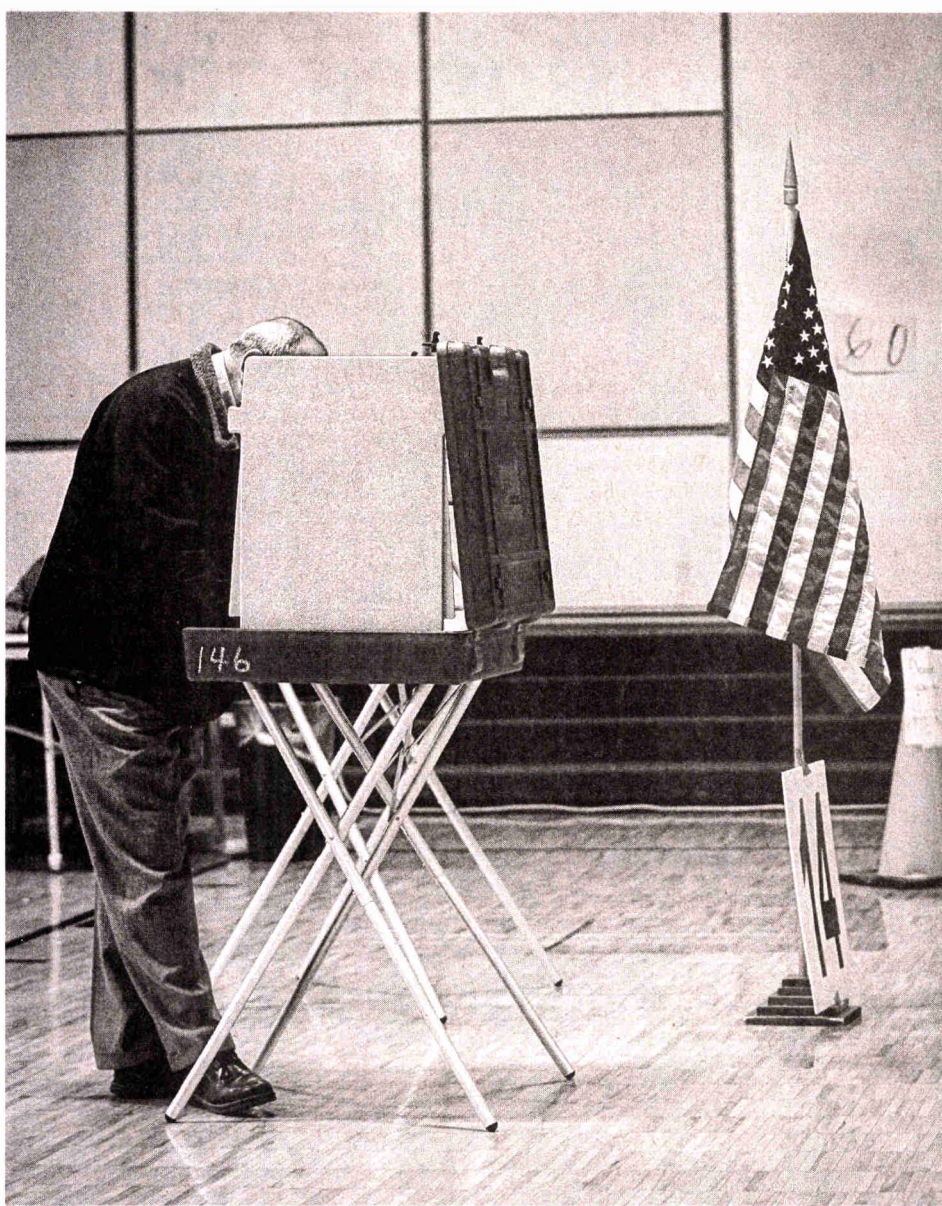
On Nov. 4, we need a school board consisting of Kate Borninski, John Barrett, Kim Crouch, Sheila Paton and Michael Siegrist, thoughtful community leaders who will work collaboratively in the best interest of our schools. Very simply, these are the people of integrity committed to supporting our amazing students and professional teachers in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

**Dr. Steve Wellinski**  
Canton

## Colbeck 'refreshing face'

The 7th District has a choice to make Nov. 4. Dian Slavens, following her term limit in the state House, is seeking to become a career politician by challenging incumbent Sen. Patrick Colbeck.

Sen. Colbeck has brought a refreshing face



Voters cast ballots Tuesday and readers are voicing their opinions in our Letters to the Editor.

to the district, going as far as to say he's not a politician, but a problem solver. This isn't an empty claim, either. In fact, if you ask him, Colbeck will tell you how he hates politics. More importantly, the former aerospace engineer is compassionate and honest, being a statesman rather than the typical politician that Slavens is.

Slavens has continuously attempted to paint Colbeck in a negative light, yet Sen. Colbeck refuses to run negative ads against his challenger.

Colbeck opposes common core, which would stifle competition in education and kill successful charter schools. The left has tried to paint Colbeck as a woman-hater, when in reality he opposes the gruesome procedure of partial-birth abortion, whereas Slavens believes this is an abstract right.

The state Democrats would have you think that Colbeck voted for the Senior Pension Tax, but in reality the senator voted no. More refreshing, Sen. Colbeck realizes raising taxes to fix roads will only burden Michiganders, whereas Slavens doesn't mind reaching into your pocketbook to support her ideological belief that government will take care of you.

There are few things as inhumane as sitting behind a keyboard and typing disparaging, libelous statements and speaking slander against a man they've never met or his policies they've never read. Yet this is what the Slavens campaign and its followers have continuously done. A man who refuses to be a politician has been

hated as if he's a politician. Try introducing yourself to the senator with civility and ask your questions to his face. You have my word, Sen. Colbeck will answer you with compassion and integrity.

Benjamin Franklin, following the Constitutional Convention, famously remarked the founders had given the colonies, "A Republic, if you can keep it." And this is Colbeck's goal as a statesman, not a politician, a problem-solver, not a disparager. As a millennial, Sen. Colbeck has restored the faith in a generation that has only known politics to be corrupt, ugly and fake. The same cannot be said for Dian Slavens.

**Derek Draplin**  
Canton

## Supports Colbeck

As a friend of Patrick Colbeck and a woman who loves Michigan, I want you to know why I feel Sen. Colbeck's virtues, management skills and analytical approach make him the person you want representing you in Lansing.

It is these qualities which allow him to fully analyze and understand the issues Michigan is facing and the sincerity to serve his constituents faithfully. He looks to solve such issues as education and roads, fighting to increase the education budget, fully funding the teacher's pension plan, and looking for unconventional ways to fund road improvements to avoid tax increases that would penalize Michigan residents.

Not only has his opponent not demonstrated creative thought like Sen.

Colbeck has to protect what is important to Michigan residents, Rep. Slavens voted to divert money from the School Aid Fund to the Department of Corrections and also to divert money from roads - robbing Peter to pay Paul. Actions such as these put Michigan's leaders in a constant reactionary mode rather than looking forward and planning for our states future.

With Sen. Colbeck's past experience as a management consultant, he is able to analyze data collected and devise solutions that best fit our state's needs and provide our residents with solutions that are fiscally responsible. His Patient Centered Care Plan is a great example. As an alternative to the Affordable Care Act, this plan would save the state billions of dollars while providing more personal medical care for the patient.

I know Patrick Colbeck as a compassionate man who shows his concern for persons of all ages. His compassion is something he does not leave at home when he heads to Lansing. He carefully considers the effect his vote will have on each and every constituent while keeping true to his oath to support the constitution. Patrick had a very successful business before entering the political world. But he was called to serve and serve he has.

He has not only been an inspiration to me, but also to my kids as an example of leading with integrity. Our family is proud to call Patrick and his wonderful wife Angie our friends. As an ac-

complished statesman, Patrick Colbeck will continue to be loyal to his constituents by looking out for Michigan residents, their safety, and their pocket books in his next term.

Please take the time to truly get to know who Patrick is. Check him out for yourself at fixingmichigan.com. Then join me Nov. 4 in voting for Patrick Colbeck.

**Diana J. Noble**  
Canton

## Backs Colbeck

I am writing to encourage your vote this Tuesday, Nov. 4, for Patrick Colbeck for the Michigan state Senate. I am fortunate enough to be voting for a man that I have personally met and become familiar with, and therefore am not so easily deceived by the endless barrage of advertisements.

Patrick Colbeck is a good man, a moral man, a man of his word and a man of character. A man who has a public record of fiscal responsibility and being a good steward of our hard-earned Michigan tax dollars. A man with a common-sense plan for health care that eliminates the 159 unnecessary connections between you and your doctor. A man with a plan to fix our Michigan roads without raising taxes, and very importantly, a man who values life from the most innocent and vulnerable babies in the womb to our seniors' rights to unrationed, excellent health care in their golden years.

I find it sad and hard to believe that we are in an age where these values even need to be defended, and yet it is obvious that in this upcoming election we are in a battle for the very soul of America. Still, many sit around shaking their heads in disbelief at the direction our country has taken (especially in these last six years) yet do not utilize their hard-fought right to vote, which is one of our most powerful tools for change. As the wife of a former military officer, I know personally the sacrifices that our brave men and women make on a daily basis to secure our freedoms, so is it really too much to ask for your vote to help secure these same God-given freedoms?

History is full of men and women who changed the course of history, people who sometimes went against what was popular to do what was right, and Patrick Colbeck is one of those men. As a matter of fact, we could use a lot more Patrick Colbecks in our political offices, in our courts and, yes, even in the White House.

As Dietrich Bonhoeffer was once quoted, "All it takes for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing."

So please vote Nov. 4. Vote for good, godly, moral people. Vote for Patrick Colbeck, because what you believe and what you do stems from who you are.

**Michelle Spala**  
Plymouth

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING NOVEMBER 18, 2014

The Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the fiscal year of 2015 on November 18, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Charter Township of Plymouth offices located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the above address in the Clerk's Office week days from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

Publish: October 23, 2014, November 2, 2014

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Regular Meeting dates in 2014: November 18 and December 9.

Special meetings, if any, will occur on Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman  
Township Clerk

Publish: November 2, 2014

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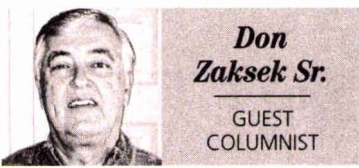
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GUEST COLUMN

# Facts being distorted about school funding



**Don Zaksek Sr.**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

As we approach the November election, there continues to be a great deal of rhetoric regarding the level of state funding for K-12 education in Michigan. The facts regarding this subject have been greatly distorted and a clarification is needed.

According to the non-partisan Senate Fiscal Agency, the *Detroit Free Press* and many other media outlets, total state funding for education has increased over the past several years. The following totals, showing state funding for Michigan schools, are from the Senate Fiscal Agency:

- Total state K-12 funding:
- » 2010-11: \$10.8 billion
- » 2011-12: \$11.1 billion (\$520 million reduction in federal funding in this fiscal year)
- » 2012-13: \$11.2 billion
- » 2013-14: \$11.5 billion
- » 2014-15: \$12.0 billion (bud-

get) Retirement funding fund payments:  
 » 2010-11: \$0  
 » 2011-12: \$155 million (\$520 million reduction in federal funding in this fiscal year)  
 » 2012-13: \$315.5 million  
 » 2013-14: \$505.5 million  
 » 2014-15: \$882.7 million  
 This is "total funding" from the state, which includes both the per-pupil foundation allowance and categorical grants. The per-pupil foundation allowance accounts for approximately 75 percent of state funding for education and is the largest source of operational aid for schools.

The remaining 25 percent is in the form of categorical grants for special education, best practices, at-risk students and mandatory retirement costs. When referring to total state funding, it is erroneous to exclude this 25 percent. This increasing state support has helped public education navigate the struggles many employees in the private sector have faced as the Michigan economy emerges from one of the most severe recessions in our state's history.

Much discussion has been about the decline in "classroom" funding. This tactic selectively ignores billions in state taxpayer support for public schools.

As a former small business owner and an employee of a large automotive company with a career in finance, I can assure you that when evaluat-

ing employees' total compensation, all costs were counted, including retirement plan funding.

The Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System has an enormous unfunded pension liability of \$26 billion, which means that projected payments to retirees exceed pension assets by this amount. These unfunded pension liabilities are greater than two years of total K-12 educational funding.

This mandates substantial contributions be directed to the pension fund. Over the past four years, approximately \$1.9 billion has been paid into the school employees' retirement fund. These are real funding dollars that represent taxpayers' contributions to the total funding of the Michigan education system and definitely represent a significant part of

school employees' total compensation.

K-12 funding has increased during the past four years, with a substantial required increase to the school employees' pension fund. There was not a \$1 billion cut in education funding during this period as supported by this statistical information obtained from the non-partisan Senate Fiscal Agency.

Whether you are a Republican, Democrat or an independent, these are the published facts about the true level of educational spending in the state of Michigan.

Hopefully, the distortions will end here.

*Don Zaksek Sr. has a master's degree in finance, is a former small business owner and spent 28 years on the Ford Motor Co. finance staff. He lives in Canton.*

STAFF COLUMN

## Endorsements are not always easy, but important nonetheless

I'm sure you are as sick of this political season as I am. I've been completely inundated with phone calls, mailings, television commercials, etc. Heck, even my Facebook feed is full of paid ads from political candidates, political action committees and seemingly just about anybody else with a political ax to grind. Talk about over-saturation. There's no place to hide.

As a voter, it's just so hard cutting through all the nastiness and vitriol that has come to define our current political system. What to believe? What not to believe? It wouldn't be so bad if some of the stuff had real substance to it and actually inspired me to support a candidate rather than trying to scare me not to vote for someone. It's pretty easy to see why so many Americans are completely turned off by the political process in our country.

I was talking about this very topic with a good friend the other day. I was talking about a



**Kurt Kuban**  
STAFF WRITER

couple of candidates I respect and mentioned our newspaper endorsed a couple of them. That's when he got kind of indignant and said he didn't understand why newspapers actually endorse one candidate over another. I found myself defending the process, which is kind of odd considering the endorsement process is one of the things I like least about my job.

It's oftentimes pretty tough to, as a newspaper editor, tell readers to vote for one person over another, particularly when you like both candidates and are even friends. Feelings often get hurt and there have been times in my career where an endorsement of an opposing candidate ended up severing

relationships that I held pretty dear.

But when I contemplate all the crap (there's no better way to say it, well, unless going full expletive) that voters are confronted with via the mail, phone, television, radio and even Internet, I now realize why newspapers take the time to make endorsements. The fact is most voters don't get the opportunity that we do to meet and vet candidates. We are able to ask questions and see how candidates actually respond when being put on the spot about a position that they may have taken.

One of the points my friend made in arguing against newspaper endorsements is everyone has a bias. You've probably heard how liberal the media is. And you probably heard that on the conservative Fox News or from some other right-leaning media source. The point is well-taken. Everybody who isn't living under a rock has their own thoughts about poli-

tics. Anyone who knows me certainly knows I do.

Yet, as a professional, I like to think that I am able to separate those feelings from the endorsement process. I can tell you that we here at the *Observer & Eccentric* take the process very seriously. I wish our readers could sit in on some of our meetings after we meet all the candidates. It sometimes gets pretty testy. But at the end of the day, we look at each candidate - their background, professional and community experience and their positions on the issues - and see how it all meshes with the community they want to serve. I don't care if a candidate has an 'R' or a 'D' after their name. I care how much their beliefs are in line with the community. If you don't believe that, I ask you to take a look at our endorsements for next week's election. We are kind of split down the middle.

And in the end, those endorsements are just our opi-

nion. We explain to our readers why we support the candidates in a particular race and then we leave it up to them to decide whether or not they agree with us. Believe me, I've endorsed my share of candidates I knew didn't have a shot of winning. And I've also endorsed my share of candidates who I had a hard time stomaching. But I always did so because I thought they were best for the community. That's what newspapers do - at least in my experience. Take it for its worth - just like our endorsements.

In the meantime, I'm just counting down the hours until the polls close Tuesday. Hopefully I can find some shelter to get away from the bombardment of all these political ads. Does anybody have a rock I can hide under?

*Kurt Kuban is community editor of the Northville Record. He welcomes your feedback at [kkuban@hometownlife.com](mailto:kkuban@hometownlife.com).*

# Guide to Employment

To place your ad here contact us at [careers@hometownlife.com](mailto:careers@hometownlife.com) or call 1-800-579-7355

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For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p>A fast paced growing orthopaedic practice is looking to hire individuals with exceptional customer service skills to fill several positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receptionists</li> <li>• Certified Medical Assistants</li> <li>• Medical Billers</li> <li>• Call Center Reps</li> <li>• Information Technologist</li> </ul> <p>Required Qualifications include: excellent verbal and written communication skills &amp; the ability to communicate effectively with others within and outside of the organization, able to prioritize, be well organized and multi-task. 2 yrs customer service experience required (medical field a plus but not necessary). We offer a competitive salary &amp; benefits package including 401k w/company match, paid holidays and vacation employment@mcim.com</p> <p><b>Michigan Orthopaedic Institute</b> www.mcim.com</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>AUTOMOTIVE SELLERS</b> BUICK GMC</p> <p>Division of Sellers Auto Group Immediate openings for the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully Certified General Repair Technician.</li> <li>• Quick Lube Tech</li> <li>• Utility Porter</li> </ul> <p>Excellent pay and benefits 401K. Automotive News Top 100 Dealerships to work for.</p> <p>Apply in person or email to <a href="mailto:tombrown@sellersgm.com">tombrown@sellersgm.com</a></p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p>Dearborn Heights is seeking applicants for the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firefighters</li> <li>• Mechanics</li> <li>• Building Inspectors</li> </ul> <p>Application deadline for all openings is Tues, Nov. 25, 2014 at 5 p.m. Must meet all qualifications listed at: <a href="http://ci.dearborn-heights.mi.us/HR_EmpOpp.cfm">http://ci.dearborn-heights.mi.us/HR_EmpOpp.cfm</a></p> <p>For more info, call 313-791-3420. EOE</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>LAB TECHNICIAN</b></p> <p>Small family-owned chemical company is looking for a self-motivated, reliable, hard working entry-level lab technician to perform a variety of chemical laboratory needs. Applicants should possess a minimum of an Associates Degree, Natural Sciences preferred. In addition applicants must be able to interact well with others &amp; be comfortable multi-tasking. Please email resume to: <a href="mailto:submit.laboratoryresume@gmail.com">submit.laboratoryresume@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>RF Engineer</b> (Multiple Openings):</p> <p>RF engineering in 3G &amp; 4G wireless technologies (CDMA/EVDO, WiMAX, LTE etc). Design wireless network solutions (Cellular and WiFi), develop network Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) &amp; reporting Processes for QChat application over EVDO &amp; LTE networks, CDMA/ EVDO/ LTE networks, WiFi networks. Perform Link Budget Analysis, Model Tuning, development/maintain scripts for post processing automation. Req. MS degree in Information Systems. Job location: Novi, Michigan. Resume: <a href="mailto:Teleworld@Solutions, Inc">Teleworld@Solutions, Inc</a></p> <p>Fax: 703-995-4643</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - Medical</b></p> <p><b>MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST</b></p> <p>Busy Farmington Hills medical office seeks EXPERIENCED individual for receptionist duties: computer scheduling, phones, data entry, filing, and records processing are also part of the responsibilities of the position. Please fax resume to: 248-538-4949</p>
<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>DRIVERS</b></p> <p>Do you want more than \$1,000 a Week?</p> <p>Excellent Monthly Bonus Program/Benefits. Weekend Hometown you Deserve! Electronic Logs/Rider Program. 877-704-3773</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>DENTAL ASSISTANT</b></p> <p>Part-Time, Experienced Needed for fast paced office in Plymouth. Fax resume to: 734-453-8223</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>MAINTENANCE TECH</b></p> <p>Novi Afl Community. Apply/see full details at: <a href="http://careerbuilder.com">careerbuilder.com</a> Keyword 2457601</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>NOVI</b></p> <p>New Skilled Rehab Center is seeking energetic, talented people to join our team!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RN's</li> <li>• CNA's</li> <li>• Culinary</li> <li>• Wait Staff</li> <li>• Housekeeping</li> </ul> <p>Apply at: Medlodge of Novi 48300 11 Mile Road Novi: 248-662-2300</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>SNOW PLOW DRIVERS</b></p> <p>Up to \$16 per hr with exp only. SNOW SHOVELERS, \$12/hr. Must be on call 24 hrs. 7 days a week. Call Ervin at: 248-788-6797, 248-504-7358</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - Medical</b></p> <p><b>Patient Financial Services -Coder</b></p> <p>High volume gastroenterology practice is seeking a full time Certified Professional Coder, who will be responsible for reviewing procedure codes to classify procedures performed and treatment provided. Must have two plus years of experience and knowledge with gastroenterology. Desired candidate must have a strong commitment to customer service, good organizational skills and a high level of data entry accuracy. NextGen EPM and EMR knowledge is required. Medical Billing Certification, OIG Compliance Training and Correct Coding Initiative training highly preferred.</p> <p>Fax resume and cover letter to Human Resources 734-434-9517, email to: <a href="mailto:jobs@huronastro.com">jobs@huronastro.com</a> or mail to 5300 Elliott Drive Ypsilanti, MI 48197</p>
<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY</b></p> <p>DADCO, Inc. the global leader in nitrogen gas spring technology, is growing! We are looking for dependable, bright individuals with a strong work ethic to train for part-time, day-shift positions. Job responsibilities include part quality inspection, sub and complete product assembly build, final product inspection and order packing. Qualified candidates will be quick learners with a high school diploma, technical aptitude, and strong attention to detail. Come and work with our talented team in our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. We will offer you training, competitive wages, including 401(k). EOE</p> <p>Email resumes to: <a href="mailto:law@dadco.net">law@dadco.net</a></p> <p><b>DADCO</b></p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>Commercial Cleaner</b></p> <p>Full-time day position. Must pass drug screen &amp; background check. Ability to work with customer on a daily basis &amp; complete all aspects of cleaning. Must have own transportation. 586-759-3700</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>DRIVERS</b></p> <p>*START at .48 CPM</p> <p>all miles          *PLUS Fuel &amp; Safety Bonuses          *Excellent 401K</p> <p><b>MCS</b></p> <p>*Medical, Dental, Vision          *No Touch Freight          *Respect</p> <p>419-705-8371  <a href="http://mcstrucks.com">mcstrucks.com</a></p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>RECEPTIONIST &amp; SUPPORT ASSISTANT</b></p> <p>Part-time for management co. in Novi to answer phones, greet &amp; direct guests, manage incoming vendors &amp; service persons, maintain filing system, sort and distribute incoming/outgoing mail and assist office personnel. Outgoing personality required with professional and strong communication skills both written and verbal and the ability to multi-task. A minimum of 10 yrs' exp in like position required. Send resume to: <a href="mailto:mail.48375@gmail.com">mail.48375@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>OFFICE ASSISTANT</b></p> <p>Must be able to multi-task, have clerical skills &amp; physically able to work in back office which includes learning to take X-rays. Westland Chiropractor Mon., Wed. &amp; Fri. 2:45-7:30, Sat 8:45-1:30pm. 734-522-5501</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - Medical</b></p> <p><b>RN TELEPHONE TRIAGE</b></p> <p>Rapidly expanding GI practice seeking experienced RN. Responsibilities will include safe and accurate telephone assessment, patient in-take, electronic charting, infusions and a variety of other duties. Strong computer skills preferred.</p> <p>Fax resume and cover letter to Human Resources 734-434-9517, email to: <a href="mailto:jobs@huronastro.com">jobs@huronastro.com</a> or mail to 5300 Elliott Drive Ypsilanti, MI 48197</p>
<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>ROOFERS</b></p> <p>Commercial / Industrial Production Labor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical/Dental Insurance</li> <li>• 401K Plan</li> </ul> <p>Must have reliable transportation. Must be 18+ yrs of age. Pre-employment drug testing. Apply in person at: 6330 Commerce Dr Westland MI 48185</p> <p><b>CENTIMARK</b></p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>COUNTER CLERKS</b></p> <p>Full or Part-Time or Students. Locations in Birmingham, West Bloomfield &amp; Novi.</p> <p><b>Mai Kai Cleaners</b>          Call Robin or Steve before 2pm: 313-537-8050</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>JOE'S PRODUCE GOURMET MARKET IS HIRING!!</b></p> <p>We are currently taking applications for a energetic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastry Production: Experience Preferred</li> <li>• Perishable Foods Receiver</li> <li>• Deli/Cheese Counter</li> <li>• Holiday Basket &amp; Cashier Help</li> </ul> <p>Please apply in person at: 33152 W 7 Mile Rd., Livonia</p> <p><b>Medical Office Supervisor &amp; Medical Assistants</b></p> <p>Full-Time needed in Wyandotte. Full Listing <a href="http://careerbuilder.com">careerbuilder.com</a> Keyword 2458324. Resume: <a href="mailto:medtrdept@aol.com">medtrdept@aol.com</a></p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>CASH IN</b></p> <p>with <b>O&amp;E Media's CLASSIFIEDS</b></p> <p>800-579-SELL</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - General</b></p> <p><b>DENTAL OFFICE MANAGER</b></p> <p>Must have minimum of one year experience in all aspects of general dental office administration. Dentech knowledge a plus. Must be a team motivator, detail oriented and energetic. Full-Time position with benefits. Some evenings and weekends required. Fax resume: 313 557-0956</p> <p><b>FAMILY DENTAL CARE</b></p>	<p><b>Help Wanted - Medical</b></p> <p><b>O&amp;E Media Classifieds Work Hard!</b></p> <p>Call today! 800-579-7355</p>

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The Workman Elementary School choir will perform at the Village Theater on Veterans Day.

## Canton pays tribute with Veterans Day programs

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Canton will honor war veterans and servicemen and women still serving their country by rolling out a two-pronged Veterans Day ceremony Tuesday, Nov. 11, including a keynote address by a Tuskegee Airmen fighter pilot.

John Spencer, a Vietnam veteran and president of the Canton Veterans Memorial Association, said it's important not to forget those who fought – and are still fighting – for freedom.

"It's a reminder that a lot of people made sacrifices," he said. "Some of them died serving our country and others have permanent disabilities. They've done a lot to preserve the freedom we and other people have."

The first ceremony, a brief one, occurs at 11 a.m. Veterans Day, when veterans and their supporters gather by the Canton Veterans Memorial in Heritage Park for the pledge of allegiance, a prayer and brief remarks by Spencer.

Later that day, Canton offers a special Salute to Service ceremony at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill

Road, to honor veterans and those still serving in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves. Admission is free.

Doors open at 6 p.m. to allow the public to view military memorabilia displays and enjoy a cookie and punch reception prior to the formal stage presentation at 7 p.m.

This year's keynote speaker is retired Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson of the Tuskegee Airmen, Detroit Chapter, who served as a P-51 fighter pilot with the Red Tail, 332nd Fighter Group, 301st Fighter Squadron in Ramitelli, Italy.

To provide protection from enemy aircraft, Jefferson flew 18 long-range escort missions for B-17 and B-24 bombers. Three days prior to the invasion of southern France, he was shot down Aug. 12, 1944, by ground fire while strafing radar stations on the coast. He was captured by German troops and spent nine months as a prisoner of war, including five months in Stalag Luft III, 80 miles east of Berlin on the Oder River.

Jefferson was liberated by American forces

April 29, 1945, and discharged from active duty in 1947. He later became an elementary school science teacher in Detroit and retired as an assistant principal in 1979.

Jefferson is one of the founders of the Detroit Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Village Theater program also includes musical tributes sung by the Workman Elementary Choir under the direction of Keri L. Mueller.

Moreover, items for servicemen and women will be collected at the theater by the Michigan Military Moms, including individual size or travel size beef jerky and Slim Jims, Q-tips, disposable razors, dark socks, foot and body powder, hand and foot warmers, hot chocolate, Michigan sports team memorabilia, puzzle books such as crossword puzzles and Sudoku books and decks of cards/Uno.

For more information on Salute to Excellence, call 734-394-5300 or go to [www.cantonvillage.theater.org](http://www.cantonvillage.theater.org).

[dclem@hometownlife.com](mailto:dclem@hometownlife.com)  
Twitter: @CantonObserver  
734-972-0919

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Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is a serious condition in which arteries carrying blood to the legs become narrowed or blocked causing pain and making it difficult to walk.

**Symptoms include:**

- pain, cramping and fatigue in the legs after activity (walking/climbing stairs)
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- shiny skin and discoloration on the legs

People who smoke, have high blood pressure, diabetes or high cholesterol level are at greater risk for developing PAD.

**PAD Screening includes four point blood pressure check, arterial doppler study, stroke risk assessment and consultation with a vascular specialist.**

Call 800-231-2211 to schedule an appointment  
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Screenings by appointment only, limited appointments.\*

\*Due to high demand, if you have been screened in the last two years, we ask you not to enroll at this time.

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Seating times: 12pm • 2pm • 4pm

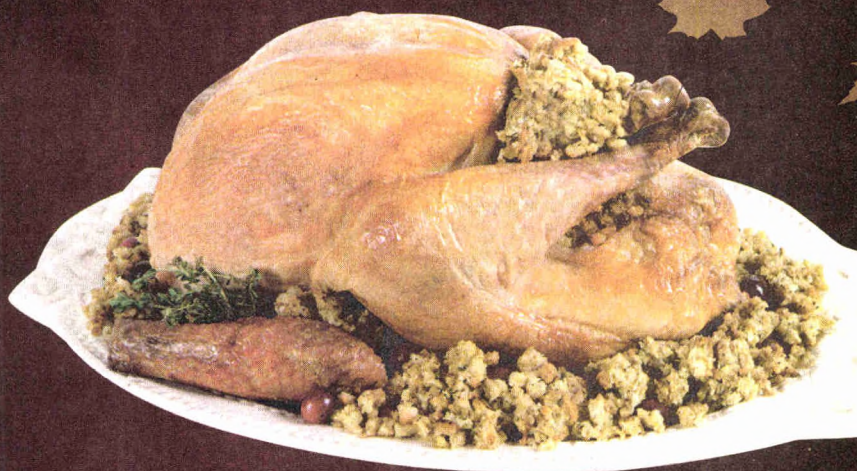
Call to make your reservation today (Guest count required upon booking)

Breakfast & Dinner option @ 12pm seating only

- Scrambled Eggs
- Bacon
- Sausage
- Hash Browns
- French Toast & Waffle Station
- Oven Roasted Turkey
- Honey Glazed Ham
- Country Fried Chicken
- Roasted Sirloin w/ Horseradish Sauce
- Green Bean Casserole & California Vegetable Blend
- Sweet Mashed Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes w/ Turkey Gravy
- Cheesy Potatoes & Baked Mostaccioli
- Apple Stuffing & Cranberry Relish
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# It's possible to find annuities with no surrender charges

**Q: Dear Rick: An annuity I purchased 10 years ago is maturing. I don't need this money and I just want to keep it in an annuity. Currently, I have a fixed annuity and I plan to switch it into a variable annuity where I can invest it into some funds. My agent has shown me a couple of variable annuity programs, one with a seven-year penalty, the other with a 10-year penalty. Even though I plan to leave the money in the annuity for many years, I don't like the idea of paying penalties if something should happen. I told my annuity person that I have read in your column that there were variable annuities that**



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

**had no surrender charges. He said, "That's not true." Could you confirm there are variable annuities without surrender charges? If I'm going to leave the money in an annuity for long term, do surrender charges really make a difference?**

**A:** Yes, there are variable annuities that you can use that will not have surrender charges. What that means is if six months or a year from now you decide that you want to do something different with your money, you could close out

the annuity and receive in return the full market value of the annuity.

When you have a surrender charge, it reduces the money that you will receive. For example, if you have an annuity that was worth \$100,000 and it had a 10-percent surrender charge, when you close out you would only receive \$90,000. On an annuity that had no surrender charge, you would receive the full \$100,000.

Another element that goes hand-in-hand with the no surrender charge annuity is lower internal fees.

Variable annuities are notorious for fees. Companies that have high surrender penalties also tend to have high fees. Companies that have no

surrender charges have very low fees. Therefore, by using an annuity that has no surrender charges, you have greater flexibility, lower fees and, consequently, higher returns.

Contrary to what the annuity salesperson told you, there are variable annuities that have no surrender charges and low costs. I recommend the variable annuity through Vanguard, Fidelity or Charles Schwab. Each of these has no surrender fees, low costs and a wide variety of investment alternatives.

It is easy to move money from one annuity to another. All you need to do to complete the transaction is have the new annuity company directly transfer the

money. By directly transferring the money, there are no tax issues and it's relatively simple to accomplish.

Many people may be questioning why anyone would recommend using a variable annuity that has surrender charges when there are excellent options that have much lower costs and greater flexibility. The reason is simple – low-cost annuities do not charge commissions.

Typically, when you see annuities with back end surrender charges, those are the annuities that charge commissions – the longer the surrender penalty, the greater the commissions. That is why you sometimes see salespeople push annuities with 10- and 15-year

penalties because they charge higher commissions. If the annuities that charge higher commissions performed better, that would be one thing; the facts suggest otherwise.

When you look at independent studies, the low-cost, no surrender fee annuities outperform. Therefore, if your goal is to have more money in your pocket, make sure you use an annuity that has low cost and no surrender charges.

Good luck.

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

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"She's a blessing for me and I probably wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for my daughter," said Juanita Gee, a Novi resident fighting her terminal breast cancer diagnosis, here with her daughter Alexis.

## Local woman looks to daughter in her fight against terminal cancer

By **Lonnie Huhman**  
Staff Writer

Juanita Gee has a lot of reasons to get up each day and fight her stage four, terminal breast cancer, which has caused her so much pain and difficulty over the past six years. Among those many reasons is one big one as to why she strives to stay positive: her daughter Alexis.

"She's a blessing for me and I probably wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for my daughter," said Gee, a Novi resident.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008, when her daughter Alexis was only 2. However, she was cleared in 2009, only to find out in 2010 that the cancer was back and had metastasized. She now undergoes a daily regimen of medicine and has begun radiation and surgeries.

"It's treatable, but not curable," is how she describes her situation.

Her story is one that isn't always talked about. Juanita's husband, overwhelmed by the diagnosis, left her soon after, unable to cope, leaving

her without a crucial piece of support. In spite of this, she has found a way to live and thrive with her daughter at her side each step.

It's this story she wanted to tell so people would understand and, in some cases, might even find their own inspiration.

Both mother and daughter agreed to share their journey with Novi director/producer Keith Famie for his television documentary series *The Embrace of Aging*, which airs on Detroit Public Television. She was in the show's third episode "Fighting Cancer," which aired Oct. 26.

In that episode, the producer stepped into the lives of three brave women who are all living with breast cancer. Between doctor's appointments, chemo and radiation treatments, medical professionals help the audience better understand what breast cancer is.

While planning the series, Famie found a lot of similar stories of support and survival about breast cancer, but he wanted to have another perspective to go along

with those stories. He found that in Juanita.

She was hesitant at first to put their lives out there for viewers, but the deciding factor was about bringing understanding to some misconceptions about people with terminal cancer, while also helping others relate who might be in a similar situation.

"Her story represents a different look into the fight against cancer, not one always told," Famie said.

He said there's a lot people can learn from the series. Juanita said she did. Even though she lives it daily, she said after watching their episode she came to a better realization how much she and her daughter have and are going through together.

There may be another opportunity to see the episode when Detroit Public Television repeats it. The next one, episode four, is 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, and it's called "Men and Women." In this episode, they hope to shed some light on how to grow old with your life partner — and still be in love.

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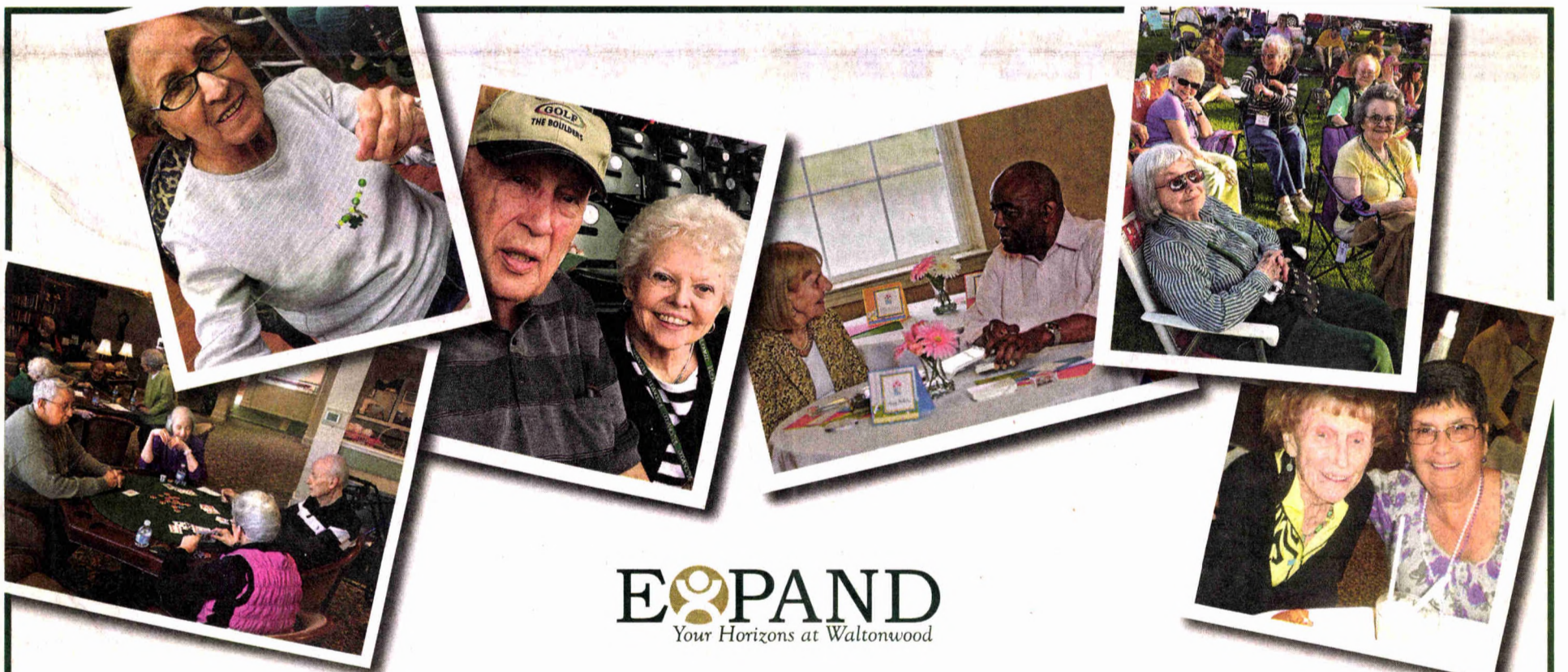
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# U.S. Sen. Rand Paul stops by GOP office for rally

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

Farmington Hills resident Ed Rennell came Wednesday to the Republican field office in Livonia after hearing U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, would be there.

After his speech, he said he was pretty pleased with what he had to talk about, ranging from the Affordable Care Act approved several years ago to other issues facing the nation. "He's right on target," Rennell said.

Several dozen people were at the field office

off Seven Mile and Farmington for a rally held by the Republican Party for local candidates and to hear Paul speak. It was Paul's second stop of the day in Michigan, one of 32 states Paul said he has visited campaigning. Those campaign stops, he said, have left him with the raspy voice he spoke with Wednesday afternoon to the crowd.

Paul stopped to campaign for several candidates running for office who attended the event, including Dave Trott, who is running against Democrat Bobby McKenzie for the U.S. House 11th District seat.

Paul, a vocal opponent of the ACA, more commonly known as Obama-care, talked about the issues the changes have made, including many Americans who have lost their doctors as a part of the change. He said the decisions made during Tuesday's election will affect the country greatly, depending on who is elected.

"Apparently you can't keep your doctor," he said. "If you have cancer and want to go to a major medical center to have your cancer treated, guess what? You don't get to choose it anymore."

"This whole debate is about who gets to make the choice."

## Livonia: The political place to be?

Livonia has seen a wide array of national political activity this cycle. Republicans have brought in Paul and former presidential candidate Mitt Romney for rallies, while Democrats have brought several members of Congress to campaign as well.

Bobby Schostak, chairman of the Michigan Republican Party, spoke before Paul, tell-



Sen. Rand Paul greets Tyrone Township Supervisor Mike Cunningham. To Cunningham's right is Tom Stroup of Northville.

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ing the crowd the previous election cycle's number of 3 million voters reached had been broken by those GOP volunteers.

"Michigan volunteers have made more than 3.5 million contacts to voters," he said. "We've done that in record time."

Paul said while it took the nation a while before people of all colors and sexes could be equal when it comes to opportunity, the country today is ripe for the opportunity for anyone to succeed with the current meritocracy system, something he said Democrats don't always believe in.

"Now, we have a country where everyone can succeed based on their merit, based on how hard they work," he said. "But you've got to understand what made America great to make America great again."

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**RE-ELECT** Patrick *Vote November 4th*  
**Colbeck**  
*Republican* **State Senator**



**ABOUT PATRICK**  
 Patrick Colbeck is currently serving his first term in elected office as the State Senator for MI's 7th District. Starting in 2014 the district will include the communities of Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Livonia and Wayne. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan with Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Aerospace Engineering as well as a graduate of the International Space University in Strasbourg, France. Included in his **over 20 years of engineering and management** work in a variety of industries, he has worked on systems for the International Space Station and instructed students at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's Space Camp. He and his wife, Angie, are members of Northridge Church and have been residents of Canton Township for 18 years.

The Senator is a proven leader who has demonstrated an ability to work together with others to achieve goals once



*"Like many of you, I dearly love our country but I am very disappointed by our current political environment. I am disheartened by attempts to transform our nation from one of a free and independent people to one of increasing government control and dependence. How do we change this course? Well, my wife Angie and I left the comfort of a relatively obscure private life and successful small business to change the direction of the state we love. With your support, we have made a significant difference by providing actual solutions to the problems that we face rather than politics as usual. I am working hard to faithfully represent your voice in Lansing. I will need your vote to continue to provide your voice of common sense."*

- Senator Patrick Colbeck



Grand Opening of the MI Freedom Center November 11, 2011



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thought impossible. As he tackles these challenges, he is consistently guided by the call to *focus on what is noble, true, excellent and praiseworthy.*

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- ENDORSEMENTS**
- The Detroit News
  - Police Officers Assoc. of MI
  - Fraternal Order of Police
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**MORE INFORMATION**  
 Elect Patrick Colbeck to be your state senator and you will be among the best informed citizens in the state. His Senate website at [MorninginMichigan.com](http://MorninginMichigan.com) contains links not only to his editorials, press releases, office hours, and floor speeches, it also provides links to what he calls the "Solution Center" and "Data Center". His Senator Patrick Colbeck Facebook® page provides almost daily updates on events, issues, and votes happening in Lansing and throughout the district.

Colbeck's views on the issues

**J**OB "I started my public service in January 2011 at a time when Michigan was suffering from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Our unemployment had skyrocketed and our auto industry was struggling. Many referred to this downturn as our "lost decade". During that decade, Michigan was the only state in the nation to have lost population. Times are better now. *Michigan is coming back!* I am happy to report that Michigan has created over 275,000 private sector jobs. In fact, there are now **over 19,000 job openings** within a 30 mile commute of the 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District. Our population is growing again and our youth no longer have to seek employment in other states."

**H**EALTHCARE "As one of a handful of legislators who have actually read the federal Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare), it is obvious that this act is neither affordable nor caring. Putting 159 new organizations between a doctor and patient does not lower costs or improve care. This is why I strongly opposed Obamacare and applied my experience in the healthcare and IT industries to develop a free market alternative called "Patient-Centered Care". This approach has been described by Forbes.com as "**Two parts Marcus Welby, M.D. and one part Steve Jobs**". Not only would this solution lower costs, it would also improve care by providing patients of all income levels access to life-saving, preventive care. My solution keeps healthcare decisions between you and your doctor. See [MorninginMichigan.com](http://MorninginMichigan.com) for more info."



Sharing biography of Neil Armstrong with students

but also how they are taught. The teaching profession has been reduced to following a script rather than allowing teachers to tailor instruction to suit the individual student. Furthermore, we have no objective proof that these new standards will actually improve student performance. I have been and continue to be the most outspoken opponent of Common Core in the Senate."

**S**ENIORS "As a kid I was blessed to grow up surrounded by both sets of grandparents. They helped teach me the value of hard work, integrity and responsibility. I have worked hard to repay their loving guidance with my public service. During the past four years, I have passed legislation to protect seniors in nursing homes and have been an outspoken advocate for retirees including my passionate **NO** vote on the Senior Pension Tax (*Senate Journal #41, Roll Call Vote #170 on HB 4361, May 12, 2011*). My **opposition to Obamacare** is driven in large part by the federal government's push to cut Medicare services for the elderly by over \$700B in order to pay for other services such as the expansion of Medicaid. I am committed to caring for those who spent their entire lives working to leave this nation stronger than they found it and that is why I am honored to have received **The Senior Alliance Legislator of the Year** award for my work on behalf of all of the seniors right here in our community."

**V**ETERANS "Serving those who serve us is a passion of mine. Active duty, veterans and their families have sacrificed much to preserve our freedom. And it is our duty to honor those sacrifices. As the chairman of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs budget, we brought Michigan from one of the worst performing states for veteran benefit claims processing, to **3rd in the nation**. *Public service does not always require legislation*. In 2011, I teamed up with a group of service-minded veterans to co-found the MI Freedom Center at Detroit Metro Airport. To date, the MI Freedom Center has welcomed over 100,000 active service personnel, veterans and their families with open arms during their travels."



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PREP FOOTBALL PRE-DISTRICTS

## Canton sends Northville packing



Canton ball carrier Charles Turfe tries to elude the grasp of Northville tackler Andy Tang.

DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

### Chiefs' ground attack too much for Mustangs in 48-7 rout

By Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

The wind was gusting upward of 35 mph, it was damp and temperatures plunged into the 30s.

Just what a meteorologist would dial up on a Friday Halloween night for Canton's wing-T running attack as the host Chiefs took ad-

vantage of the elements and opened the Division 1 football playoffs with a resounding 48-7 pre-district victory over Northville.

Canton, which improved to 8-2 overall, also had the statistics to back up its performance up by rushing for a total of 469 yards to go along with 20 first downs, while limiting Northville to 142 yards

total.

Canton coach Tim Baechler could revel in the fact that there were also snowflakes serenading the victory afterward as the Chiefs will move on to face Livonia Churchill (8-2) for the Region 3-District 1 title next Friday at home. It will

See CHIEFS, Page B3

PREP FOOTBALL PRE-DISTRICTS



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth quarterback Deji Adebisi (No. 5) runs behind the blocking of Cameron Stella Friday night. In pursuit for Livonia Churchill is Austin Simpson (No. 54).

### 'Cats clocked by Chargers in brutal conditions

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Football on Halloween Night proved to be a winning treat for Livonia Churchill and a cruel trick for Plymouth.

On a night where sheets of snow blew diagonally across the Churchill gridiron, a 24-point third quarter propelled the Chargers to a 38-14 Division 1 pre-district victory over the Wildcats.

Churchill (8-2) will face host Canton (8-2) in Friday's district final, while the Wildcats (7-3) are one-and-done in the postseason.

"Getting the ball to start the third quarter, I was kind of surprised that they gave us the wind," Chargers head coach Bill DeFillippo said. "And so we knew we had a quarter to be aggressive, because going into back into the wind it was tough to throw and kick."

Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk said it came down to making too many mistakes against a quality opponent.

"We can't mistakes against a good team like that," Sawchuk said. "The way we looked at it, if we don't turn the ball over up here (a crucial fumble in the second quarter) and blow some coverages, it should have been 14-7 us at the half (instead of vice-versa)."

"And then we just imploded in the third quarter and made way too many mental errors. We couldn't move the football."

It was deja vu for the Wildcats, who lost 42-0 to the Chargers in September.

As was the case that night, Plymouth had no answer to the power running of senior

See WILDCATS, Page B3

D1 BOYS SOCCER SEMIFINAL

## 'ONE MORE WIN!'

### Canton boys kickers blank Saline in Division 1 semifinal

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

The path to the Division 1 boys soccer championship game for the Canton Chiefs would have to go through Saline's back line and senior goalkeeper Noah Taritas — owner of 14 shutouts entering Wednesday's semifinal at Holt.

Canton finally broke through at the seven-minute mark of the second half, when junior forward Hunter Olson's against-the-grain shot beat Taritas.

For good measure, Chiefs

senior midfielder Jack Zemanski added another goal with 12 minutes left and the Chiefs displayed their own brand of defensive prowess to wrap up a solid 2-0 victory.

After the triumph, Canton players chanted "One more win!" while head coach Mark Zemanski smiled.

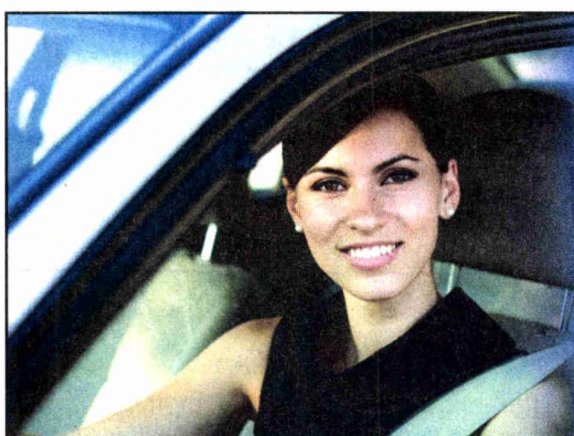
"That's what we want, that's been our goal all year," Zemanski said. "We knew we had a good team, we knew we could get to the finals. Or we hoped we could if we had some luck."

See SOCCER, Page B4




JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

The Canton Chiefs keep on celebrating. They followed up the regional championship (above) with Wednesday's win in the Division 1 semifinal.



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GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Chiefs coach Samulski steps down

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

In March, Brian Samulski brought his Canton girls basketball team to the verge of a Class A state championship.

He decided not to try for that final step in 2014-15, stepping down Monday from the Chiefs' coaching job after nine incredibly successful years.

Samulski confirmed Friday he stepped down and that longtime assistant coach Bob Blohm is not interested in his old job.

The main reason is Samulski is expected to head Salem's athletic department — first on an interim basis in the same role he performed from August until earlier this month at Canton.

With less than two weeks before official tryouts begin for the girls

basketball season, the Chiefs and new athletic director Vernon Crump must ramp up the urgency to get somebody on board.

"Yes, this did happen late in the game with basketball tryouts quickly approaching," Samulski wrote in an email to the *Observer*. "I have made a suggestion on what I think would be the best transition for the girls for the 2014-15 season."

Samulski did not immediately provide insight about that suggestion later Friday. Crump could not be reached for comment.

Samulski is looking forward to the next chapter in his career, while at the same time looking back wistfully at a winning era in Canton girls basketball history.

"In the nine years that I coached, we won a lot of



Canton girls basketball head coach Brian Samulski and longtime assistant Bob Blohm won't be on the Chiefs' sidelines this season.

games and championships," Samulski said. "But that all had to do with the outstanding girls I was lucky enough to coach.

"I truly mean it when I say I was absolutely blessed to work with some outstanding families, with great athletes that helped the basketball program be so successful."

During his Canton career, Samulski led the Chiefs to a 166-49 record.

His teams captured numerous championships, including six district and three regional titles.

The Chiefs made three trips to Breslin Center for the final four, most recently losing to Birmingham Marian in the championship game.

Canton earned plenty of hardware under his watch during the regular season, too. That list included a combined 17 division, conference and association titles.

But that success wasn't what Samulski said he will cherish the most.

"The thing I am most proud of is the relationships I was able to build with the girls the past nine years," Samulski said. "Going to an ex-player's wedding, watching an ex-player play in college or playing a round of golf with ex-players will always mean more to me than the wins and championships."

Samulski, meanwhile, continues to juggle roles as a daytime teacher in the Wayne-Westland district and interim athletic director at Salem.

He was a finalist for the Canton position, but lost out to Crump.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Salem hockey tryouts

Salem's varsity hockey team is holding tryouts 4-5:20 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Cost is \$35 per player and all players must have a physical on file in order to participate.

For more information, contact Rocks hockey coach Ryan Ossenmacher at ryannossenmacher@wlcscd.org.

### P-CEP bowling

Here are a couple of tidbits pertaining to bowling teams at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The Plymouth varsity teams have a new coach, Scott Kapke. He was an assistant coach last season for former head coach Tammy Thompson, who has moved to Florida.

Meanwhile, bowling tryouts are slated for Nov. 17-18 (3:30-5:30 p.m. each day) at Superbowl in Canton.

Interested bowlers can contact Canton coach Karl Brubaker (karlbrul@aol.com) for more information.

### Salem lacrosse meeting

Salem boys lacrosse is having a "meet the coaches and players" meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Salem High School's presentation room (No. 2112).

For more information, send an email to SalemRockslax@gmail.com.

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JOHN WICK (R) 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:50  
THE BOOK OF LIFE (PG) 11:55, 2:05, 4:20  
ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY (PG) 11:30, 1:50, 4:05, 6:35, 9:00  
GONE GIRL (R) FRI/SUN 11:45, 3:00, 6:10, 9:15  
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PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

# Wintry elements, Bobcats too much for LW

Injury-plagued Lutheran Westland falls in playoff opener, 64-6

By Doug Donnelly  
Correspondent

OTTAWA LAKE — Lutheran Westland couldn't catch a break Friday night. Already short-handed due to injuries, the Warriors had to face a driving rainstorm, strong winds and cold temperatures. The combination proved to be too much as Lutheran Westland fell 64-6 to

Whiteford in the first round of the Division 8 playoffs. "It's an honor to make the playoffs, but we knew coming in we had five or six starters that were out," Warriors coach Paul Gusé said. Lutheran Westland (5-5) mishandled the opening kickoff, but pounced on the ball at its own 10-yard line. Two plays later, however, the Warriors had their first of four turn-

overs, leading to an early Bobcats touchdown. After a three-and-out on the next possession, the Bobcats scored from 47 yards out and the route was on. Talented Whiteford sophomore back Jesse Kiefer scored four touchdowns and ran for more than 100 yards to lead the home team. The Bobcats gained 361 total yards, 356 on the ground. "They are a power-running football team," Gusé said. "This is great conditions for them. They were kind to us." The Bobcats built a 38-0 lead by the end of the first quarter

and 50-0 before halftime, starting a running clock. The entire second half was played under a running clock, but did feature the Warriors putting together a scoring drive. Travis Fry scored on a 3-yard run for the Warriors' highlight. Thomas Krueger drew applause for his 18 yards rushing and Christian Zimmerman led the Warriors in tackles. Whiteford improved to 7-3. "We talked about in a sloppy field game, you never know what is going to happen," Whiteford coach Jason Mensing

said. "You want to get out and score early while the field is still in decent shape. It tends to get worse as the game goes on. It was critical for us to score in those early possessions. We had a sense of urgency." Gusé said his Warriors will shake off the loss and move on to next year. "We knew we were in trouble right from the start," he said. "We had two guys who were 1,000 rushers who didn't really play. They are a great football team that deserved to win tonight. We have a lot of work to do for next year."

## CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

be a rematch of the Oct. 3 meeting won by Canton, 40-35. "This is perfect Canton football weather," Baechler said. "I saw the forecast on Sunday and I said, 'Oh, my God, I hope this comes true.' The worse it is, the better for us. And it did."

Canton led 21-0 after one quarter and 34-7 at halftime, racking up a total of 280 yards — all of which came on the ground.

One of the big reasons was the play of the offensive line. "We've been waiting for this," Baechler said. "I think we finally came of age on the offensive line, too. We've had some injury problems, just plugging people around and keep grinding it out. And I think today, I finally think we have a Canton offensive line — finally."

On its first possession, Canton took just six plays to score. Senior Brian Newton started the scoring parade with 1-yard TD run with 9:17 left in the first quarter, which was set up by Newton's own 42-yard burst down to the Northville 13 on just the third play from scrimmage.

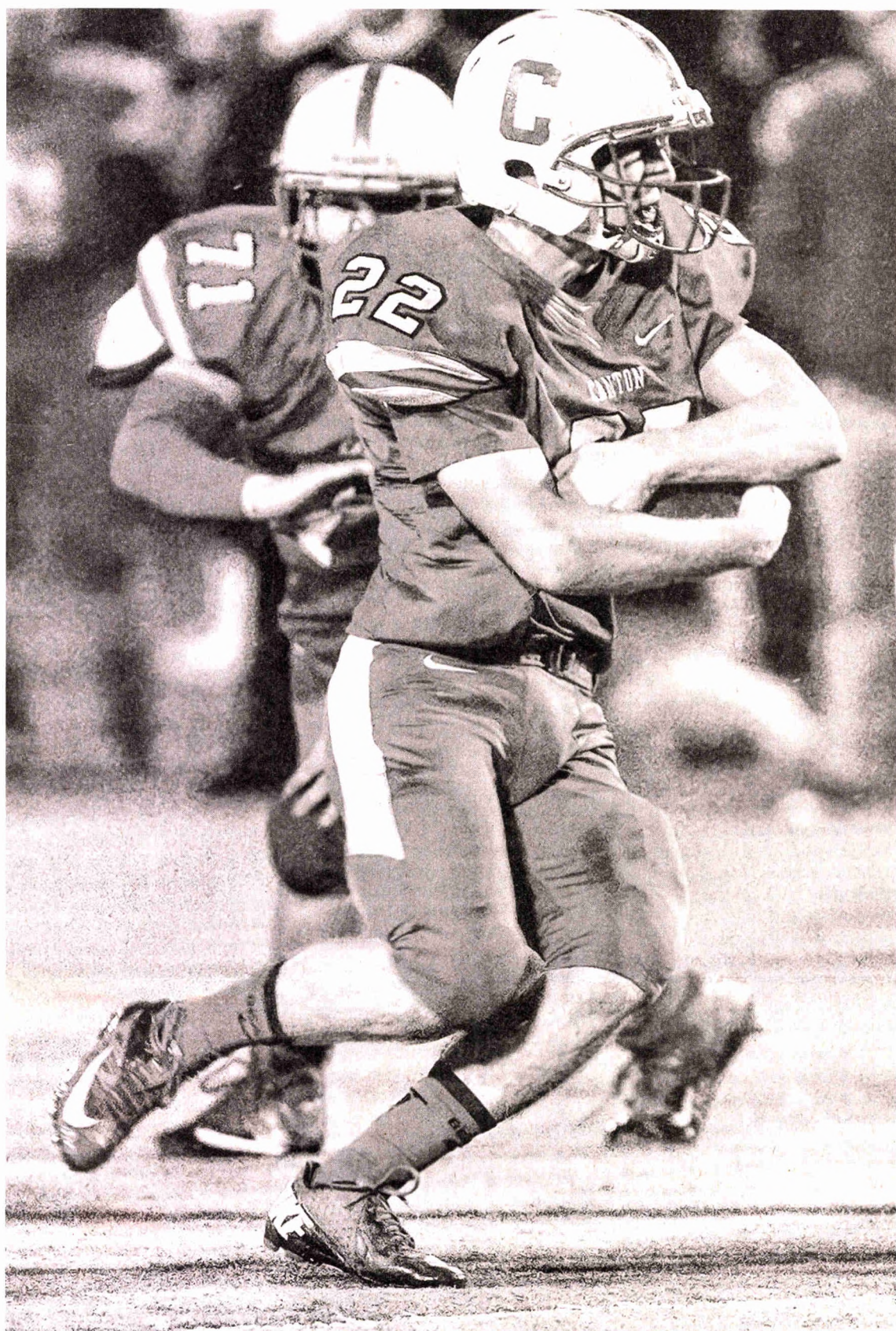
With the wind blowing from the north, Canton got the ball back at the Northville 46 when the Mustangs' punt traveled a mere 4 yards. And on the second play, sophomore Marcus Sanders busted a 42-yard TD run to make it 14-0 with 6:06 left in the first.

The Chiefs scored again with 1:16 to go in the first quarter on their third drive, this time on a Charles Turfe 9-yard TD run, to go up 21-0 (following Andrew Loehnis' extra point).

"The hardest thing playing against that offense is that you're depending on 11 players to remain disciplined at all times," Northville coach Matt Ladach said. "And, of course, they're teenagers and it's just easy for one of them make a mistake or not have him do his assignment. And when that happens, they make big plays."

The Mustangs, who went three-and-out twice to start the game, got on the board with 8:13 left in the half on quarterback Justin Zimbo's 5-yard TD pass to tight end Ryan Roberts to cap a 12-play, 65-yard drive. Jake Moody's PAT cut the deficit to 21-7.

Canton, which went four-for-



Canton's Brian Newton had game-high 171 yards rushing in a 48-7 win over Northville.

DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

four on its first-half drives, took just five plays to score again as quarterback Greg Williams faked a handoff into the line, the Northville defense bit, and the Chiefs QB kept it himself for a 46-yard touch-

down with 5:39 left in the half to make it 28-7. "There were a couple of times where we blew up the trap, they bounced it out and had a huge seam on the outside," Ladach said. "Those are

back-breakers. A kid does everything he's supposed to, blows it up and their kid just makes a great play." Northville then gambled on fourth-and-two at its own 37, but P.J. Schnepf was stopped

short of the first-down marker by Canton linebacker Jacob Stephan with 3:26 to go.

And the Chiefs took advantage by taking just five plays to score once again, capped by Sanders' 11-yard TD run with 1:00 left in the half. The PAT attempt was blown short by a stiff wind to keep it 34-7 at intermission.

"Until they (Northville) had the wind at their backs, I definitely think it was to our advantage for us because we got that early lead and they were kind of stuck running the ball," Baechler said. "We did a great job containing their quarterback (Zimbo) most of the time running. He's a good athlete, very shifty and quick. We didn't give up the big pass play. That was our goal coming into the game."

After a scoreless third quarter, Sanders scored with 10:43 remaining on a 30-yard run and Williams ran in for two to make it a running clock as the Chiefs increased their advantage to 42-7.

And with 3:34 left, Newton broke through the seam of the Northville defense to score on a 67-yard TD run to complete the rout.

Newton paced the Chiefs with 171 yards rushing on 14 carries, while Sanders added 168 on just 12 attempts. Turfe had 13 carries for 81 yards, while Williams added 49 on three attempts.

Darren Tuttle, a 5-foot-11, 215 pound senior, helped key the resurgent Canton offensive line.

"We've faced a lot of adversity, you know, a lot of injuries," Tuttle said. "This is the 10th different offensive line arrangement we've had and tonight we played a full four quarters, which we have had a hard time doing."

"It was blocking and blocking hard. Come off the ball and just hit people. We don't need a scheme, just come out and play the game of football."

And the Chiefs more than held their own in the trenches. "Northville, they're a good team, a lot of size on them, some D-I players, and we came out and had one of the best games we've had," Tuttle said.

Northville, which finished 6-4, loses 37 seniors to graduation.

"This is a great group of kids," Ladach said. "I'm truly blessed to be the head coach here and this class is just another example of why I love my job as much as I do."

## WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

tailback Paul Romain (24 carries, 135 yards, three TDs) and a balanced offense led by senior quarterback Brian Alsobrooks, who threw for one touchdown and ran for two others.

Plymouth senior linebacker Shane Raymond said he thought the defense played well in the first half "and then we just started falling apart. I think we lost some intensity."

He did not use the harsh weather as an excuse.

### Breaking through

Churchill got on the board with 7:36 to go in the first on Romain's 1-yard plunge.

But Plymouth responded with scoring march of 80 yards in 14 plays, sparked by the running of junior tailback Cameron Stella (12 carries, 71 yards), who ripped through the line for a 28-yard carry to move the chains near midfield.

Another key play in the drive was senior quarterback Deji Adebisi's 38-yard pass to senior wide receiver Christian Walls, who made a tumbling grab near the Churchill end

zone. On the next play, senior fullback Anthony Kenney scored to make it 7-7.

The Wildcats cost themselves a couple of times in the second quarter.

Early in the second, Stella intercepted an Alsobrooks pass and was off to the races for a touchdown return. But a personal foul against the Wildcats wiped out that TD.

Plymouth got the ball back on offense and looked to be on the move again. Adebisi (4-of-12 passing, 59 yards) connected on an over-the-middle pass to senior tight end Kevin Justice in Churchill territory.

But after Justice ran a few yards, he was hit hard by Chargers senior Shakur Lockett and coughed up the football to the 5-9 defender.

The Chargers capitalized with 1:08 to play in the half, when Romain scored on fourth down from the 4-yard line.

Churchill set the tone for what would happen the rest of the way with a quick scoring drive to open the third.

Alsobrooks threaded passes of 14 and 44 yards to senior receivers Brock Diamond and Tim Dulin, respectively. That set up a 4-yard quarterback keeper for the score.

A 41-yard gainer by Romain kept Churchill's offense in gear and he followed up two plays later with an 8-yard touchdown with 8:06 remaining in the quarter to make it 28-7.

### Big catches

The Chargers busted the game open just over two minutes later. Alsobrooks fired a 56-yard TD strike to Diamond (three catches, 93 yards).

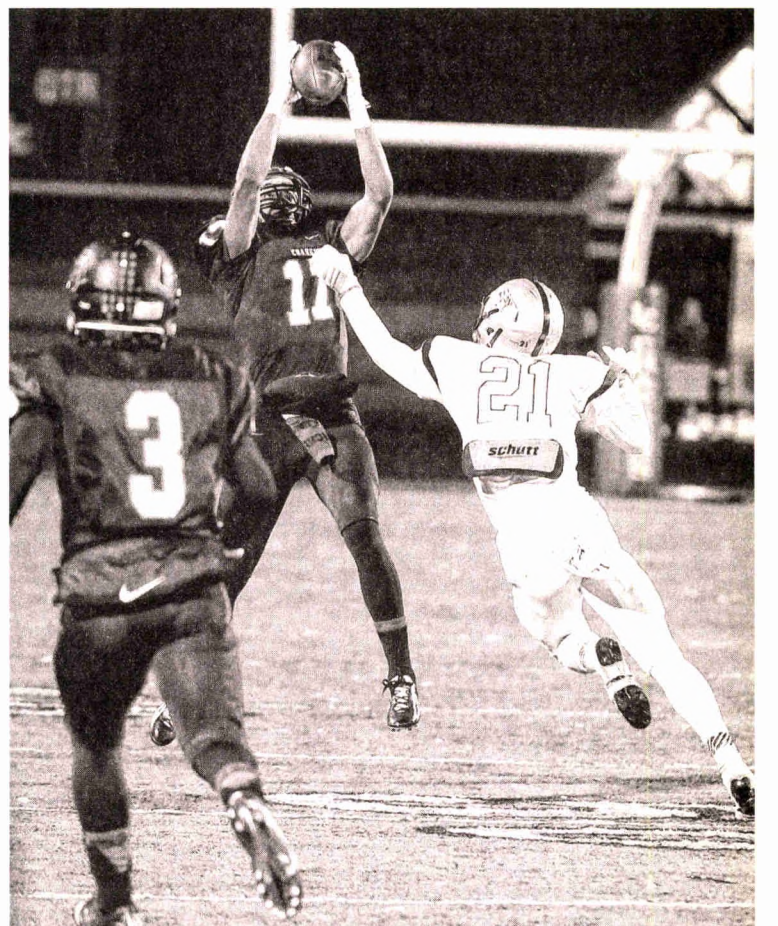
Churchill tacked on a 38-yard field goal by Alsobrooks before the end of the quarter.

Plymouth finally scored again when Adebisi tallied a 32-yard touchdown run.

Despite the tough ending to the season, Sawchuk had plenty of praise for his players — especially the senior class led by Raymond, Adebisi and Hussein Youssef.

"These kids, the most they ever went was 5-4 (in) freshman and JV and it was their goal, they wanted to grow up and make it back to the playoffs," Sawchuk said. "They did a great job."

Raymond added that going 7-3 still was a "great season. I wish we would have gone farther in the playoffs, but I'm happy where we got this year. I had a great four years at Plymouth."



Making a finger-tip grab for Livonia Churchill is Tim Dulin (No. 17), who eludes Plymouth defender Kalen Dunham (No. 21).

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



## SCHOOLCRAFT MEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

# Ocelots' depth to be tested

New coach Mashhour optimistic despite injuries, suspensions

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Abe Mashhour eagerly awaits the start of his first season at the helm of Schoolcraft College's men's basketball program.

"I'm excited about the opportunity," said Mashhour, who comes over from Henry Ford Community College. "Hopefully we can make the Schoolcraft community proud of the product that we put out on the floor."

But it might be a while before Mashhour and his staff — which includes former Livonia Clarenceville head coach Corey McKendry — are able to put the 'A' lineup out on the court, due to myriad reasons.

"I'm optimistic with our players," Mashhour said during Thursday's practice. "We have a lot of talented players, a lot of very good players."

"The thing this year is we have a lot of injured players."

## Depleted roster

In fact, if the season were to open today, Mashhour said the team has "seven healthy guys. And we start Wednesday (at 7:30 p.m. at home against Jackson College). But we should be back to nine by Wednesday, that's our hope. We'll see how that goes, though."

Leading the injury list are 6-8 freshman low post player Anthony Wartley-Fritz and freshman guard JaChristian Biles.

Wartley-Fritz, at the top of the depth chart among power forwards, is slowly recovering from knee surgery. Biles recently was hospitalized due to an undisclosed health issue.

"JaChristian obviously will

be very instrumental in our success," Mashhour said. "We'll see. He was one of our starters as far as our scrimmages went."

Helping fill the void up front to open the season will be 6-4 sophomore forward and Brighton alum Nathan Kamal, the lone returnee from 2013-14.

"Nathan started some and was a reserve some (last season)," Mashhour said. "He's a great kid, good student. He's basically what we want a Schoolcraft kid to be like."

"Obviously, there are kids that are more talented than him athletically and basketball-wise. But as far as a person, he's top-notch."

Also not in action as the Ocelots look to improve upon last year's 7-11 record are freshman forward Marcus Williams (Achilles injury) and freshman guard Moussa Harb (broken foot).

## Out of action

Another wrinkle in Mashhour's season blueprint is the indefinite suspension of four important players due to academic reasons.

On that list are 2014 Canton alum Davon Taylor (a standout 6-6, 225-pound forward), 6-7 freshman forward and Westland John Glenn product James Pruitt, 6-7 sophomore forward Kaion Seales and freshman small forward Anthony Speights.

"He's a strong kid," Mashhour said about Taylor. "He's getting better and better every day, but he hasn't practiced in a couple weeks."

"They (suspended players) don't practice. When they're academically not doing what they're supposed to do, basketball is not part of the equation."

Once those players make their way back into the lineup, Mashhour acknowledged it will bring quite an infusion of talent

into the team.

"Oh yeah, because that's basically four guys who are all inside players for us," Mashhour said. "They're all our (forwards) and (centers). That's why we have to play Nathan as a power forward right now."

"That's not his ideal position, but he's a good enough kid that he'll embrace any position that you give him."

Mashhour said Seales and Pruitt are versatile and strong enough to play around the rim or around the perimeter.

## Options remain

The Ocelots will hold the fort until everybody returns, with players who can shoot, slam and run the court.

John Glenn alum Dre Black is slated to start at one of the guard spots, as will freshman Tyler Johnson (Howell).

Expected to handle point guard duties will be sophomore Aveon Simmons, a player Mashhour encouraged to move over with him from Henry Ford.

"Aveon is a great kid, a good student, a good leader," Mashhour said. "He plays hard, works hard and is very unselfish, which is very important to us and one of the staples that we hope to have in our program."

"It's a work in progress, but Aveon embodies a lot of those qualities."

Rounding out the roster are freshman guards Lito Booth and Lorenzo Collier.

All in all, Mashhour likes the potential for the Ocelots.

"We're very athletic, we shoot the ball pretty well," Mashhour said. "We need to be more disciplined. We need to do a better job of defending, on the ball especially."

"But I would say this is an up-tempo team with good athleticism. We're skilled."

The rest of the MCCA season will find that out.

## COLLEGE SOCCER

# MU's Schmid gets NAIA honor

Madonna University sophomore goalkeeper Marcel Schmid was honored Tuesday as National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men's Soccer National Defensive Player of the Week.

The national award is the first of Schmid's career and comes on the heels of his sixth career Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Week that was announced on Monday.

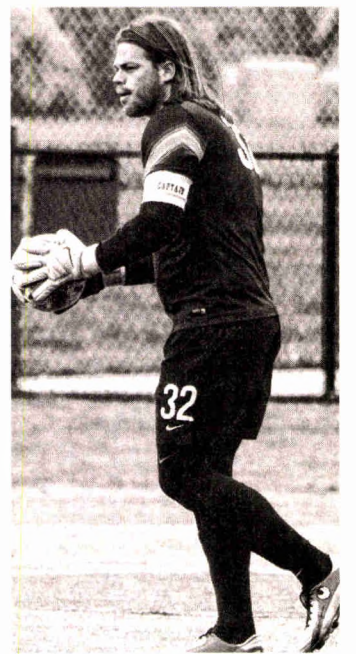
The Stuttgart, Germany native is also the first Madonna player to earn the selection in over 10 years.

Schmid was part of a pair of MU shutouts last week as the Crusaders went a perfect 2-0 in WHAC matches to improve their season record to 12-4.

Schmid opened his week by having to make just one save in a 5-0 win over Michigan-Dearborn in his 45 minutes of work.

He stopped a season-best seven shots in a 1-0 upset of then No. 4-ranked Davenport. The shutouts were the ninth and 10th of the season for the Crusaders.

Madonna's 12 wins this season are the most for the Crusaders since the 2008 season and the win over Davenport was MU's first



KELLY CIESLAK | MADONNA ATHLETICS  
Madonna University sophomore goalkeeper Marcel Schmid was named NAIA Defensive Player of the Week.

over a top 25 team since the 2008 season as well.

Schmid and the Crusaders rank first in the nation with their 10 shutouts, while individually, Schmid's 0.80 goals against average is 17th in the country and tops in the WHAC.

## SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

"But we worked really hard and were able to get it done today. I'm really proud of them as always."

Canton (23-0-3) played Saturday against Rochester Adams at Brighton for the state championship. If successful, it will mark the Chiefs' second title in three years.

One cause for concern came with just over a minute to play, when senior forward Carter Schenk was tripped, re-injuring an ankle. But teammates sounded confident that Schenk will be good to go in the title game.

"I guarantee you Carter Schenk will be playing Saturday," Jack Zemanski said. "He's a hard worker and he'll recover. He's been battling injuries all year, but I guarantee you he won't miss the state championship."

## Keeping it close

Backstopping the Chiefs was senior goalie Andrew Loehnis, who has given up only two goals all season and was clutch again against the Hornets.

Because the Chiefs figured Saline (17-3-3) would be tough to score against, they knew they'd have to be just as tough defensively.

That's exactly what happened, as Hornets senior forward Jake Cohen had trouble shaking Canton senior defenders Sam Belcher and Chris Dooley.

Also a pest all afternoon for Saline's offense was junior defender Beau Hoffman, who has a knack for being in the right place at the right time.

"(Cohen) is an excellent player and my guys nullified him pretty much the whole game," coach Zemanski said. "And my goalie made a great save when it was close, 0-0."

Loehnis held the fort when Cohen's chip shot off a throw-in bounced off him and then off the post with about 35 minutes remaining in the second half.

Just a couple of minutes

later, Canton got the breakthrough it needed.

Junior forward Matthew Causley sent a centering pass from the right side of the box that Olson finished for his 16th goal of the season. Olson slipped his low shot inside the far post.

"We got down the field real fast," Olson said. "It was a counterattack; we got a good cross off and I was just able to put it in the back of the net."

The Hornets tried buzzing around Canton's offensive zone in an attempt to draw even, but still found the going tough.

A sizzling 25-yard direct kick by junior defender Conner Williams looked promising for the Hornets, but the ball soared over the top-right corner.

With 26 minutes left, a corner kick by junior midfielder Collin Cavanaugh was cleared out of trouble by Hoffman.

Midway through the half, Hoffman blocked a drive by junior midfielder Nate Barnett.

## Padding the lead

Canton subsequently added an important insurance goal at the 28-minute mark of the second half on Jack Zemanski's tally.

Setting it up with a nifty through ball up the middle was senior midfielder Ammar Chishti.

Zemanski received the pass, then hurdled through Saline defenders to get inside the 18-yard box.

Taritas came sliding out in an attempt to block the shot, but Zemanski chipped it over the goalkeeper into the cage.

"Ammar made a great play to win the ball and I just saw the gap," Zemanski said. "He found me and I was able to work hard and win it off a guy, jump over him and I got a lucky bounce and it went in."

"It's all hard work, it's what the team's about, it's what we've been working hard all year. We're excited to play in the state championship game Saturday."

All that was left after that goal was the chanting.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
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## SCHOOLCRAFT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

# MOTION SLICKNESS

Lady Ocelots look to offset learning curve with skill level, work ethic

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College's 2014-15 women's basketball team plans to go with the flow — literally.

That's because second-year Lady Ocelots' head coach Kara Kinzer will often have five guards out on the floor who can run and gun.

"We have a high skill level," Kinzer said. "I give the green light to pretty much every girl on this team to shoot the ball."

When the MCCA season opens 5:30 p.m. Wednesday against Jackson College, Kinzer will start a quintet of guards.

They include freshmen T'era Nesbitt, Elise Tolbert (Birmingham Seaholm), Ashley Bland (Wayne Memorial), Rikki Sherdt and sophomore Sara Gammons.

"It's pretty much five guards out there," said Kinzer, whose team is looking to improve upon last year's 7-11 mark.

Out of the quintet, the Lady Ocelots will rely on Tolbert, Bland and Nesbitt to spark the offense with their perimeter shooting.

"Elise Tolbert is probably one of our best shooters with Ashley Bland," Kinzer said. "T'era Nesbitt is a shooter that can curl off a screen, catch and shoot the ball."

All will handle the ball whenever necessary, but Kinzer said Gammons brings a full season of experience at point guard for the Lady Ocelots.

"She (Gammons) averaged 38 minutes a game last season," Kinzer stressed. "So she has tons of experience handling the ball."

"If we get into a situation where we need her to handle the ball she'll be comfortable with it. But I give trust to anyone on the court handling the ball."

Opponents shouldn't assume Schoolcraft's smallish lineup will give them open paths around the rim, however.

Kinzer noted that 5-6 Sherdt, from Ypsilanti Lincoln, is as tough in the paint as they come.



Wayne Memorial alum Ashley Bland (left) and Livonia Churchill alum Stefani Polkowski are eager to begin their first season at Schoolcraft.

"She'll probably lead the league in rebounding," said Kinzer, about Sherdt. "She's one of the toughest players I've seen in a long time. She's a hard worker."

## Forwards march

There also are a few forwards who hope to help the cause.

To that end is 5-9 freshman forward and Livonia Churchill product Stefani Polkowski. Although she won't open the season in the starting lineup, she continues to improve and impress in her bid to see minutes.

"She's going to be working in the post for us when we're in our four-out, one-in offense," Kinzer continued. "Since the summer when I signed her, she's got better each and every week."

"If she keeps working hard on the boards she'll be staying in the game."

Alyssa Saenz and Breiana Allen are other options to help down low.

"Alyssa (Saenz) just joined our team a few weeks ago," she added. "Right now she's learning the system. She'll be gradually getting more and more time."

"Breiana, she's one of those

players that has very high skill level but doesn't know she has it yet. She does things on the court and you're like, 'Did that come out of her?'"

## She'll spark team

Schoolcraft's lineup will get a positive jolt in the coming weeks when sophomore guard Jessica Parry joins the squad as soon as the women's soccer season concludes.

"She hasn't been practicing with us because she's been in soccer," Kinzer said. "But last year she came off the bench half the season and then ended up starting the last eight games."

"She's a crazy, hard worker on defense. She's very intense and I'm so excited for her to join the team because I think she's just going to bring our level of defense up."

Kinzer said the team will need time to jell, but added that it is a good thing to open up with four home games.

"Because we have eight freshmen listed there, I know there's going to be mistakes," she said.

"I know that's going to happen. As long as we learn from them, move on and keep playing hard then we'll succeed."



## Heard a good story lately? Check out Tellabration!

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Chrissy Begle of Livonia gets the same kind of excitement from telling stories as a daredevil might get from sky diving.

"I compare it to extreme sports," she said, with a laugh. "I get terrible stage fright, so I do karaoke. It's the same kind of thing. You get that thrill. Telling in front of people can be terrifying, but it's like going on a roller coaster. The more I do it, the better I get."

Begle's nerves will be put to the test when she tells a Brothers Grimm fairy tale at her first major public storytelling concert, Nov. 21 at the Livonia Civic Center Library. She'll be one of three featured storytellers at the Detroit Story League's annual Tellabration! a Night of Storytelling for Adults.

Begle, who joined the League four years ago, has been telling stories primarily to her preschool students at Tutor Time in Canton and at Detroit Story League meetings. She also has performed at a story slam, a competitive storytelling event that challenges participants to relate a true, personal experience based on a theme.

"I didn't win, but it was my first time and it was a lot of fun," she said. "It's really neat because you don't know what people are going to end up saying and it has to be a personal story. It has to have happened to you."

Begle sometimes jots down ideas and bits of conversation for her storytelling tool box, occasionally making note of voice inflection and physical movements.

"Sometimes I pick up on the way it's said rather than what is said."

When she tells to children, she generally sits on the floor, almost at eye level, and encourages interaction from her young listeners. Adult audiences can be a challenge because they tend to be more reserved.

"You don't get as much feedback," Begle said. "My mentor and I went to Madonna (University) to talk to teacher clubs. They had blank expressions. We wondered, are they liking this? We found out later they loved it."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Chrissy Begle of Livonia will tell a folktale at her first Tellabration, Nov. 21.



Carolyn Graves is a featured storyteller at Tellabration! in Livonia.



Yvonne Healy tells Irish tales.



Tone Ross will serve as "maestro" at the Livonia storytelling concert.

### Foundation in books

Begle has always had a passion for reading. She got her first taste of storytelling while enrolled in a preschool lab class at Stevenson High School. A classmate's mother visited the lab one day and Begle, who graduated in 1997, remembered the story she told.

"A few years later, I was working in day care and I

started telling her story," Begle said, adding that students "loved it."

When she joined the Detroit Story League she told the piece again. Linda Day, a League member and longtime storyteller, recognized it as her own.

"She was the storyteller who came to my class," Begle said. "She has helped me out like a mentor."

In addition to Begle, storytellers Yvonne Healy of Howell and Carolyn Graves of Commerce Township will perform

at Tellabration! Tone Ross, serving as "maestro," will introduce them.

Judy Sima, League president, said Tellabration! events originated in 1988 with the National Storytelling Network.

"In the beginning, you had storytelling evenings and the profits would be sent to the organization," Sima said. "Now they are a way of letting people around the world know that there is storytelling for adults and a night to enjoy it."

Sima said Graves will tell a folktale about a dragon and a boy who befriends it. Healy will either tell a personal story or an Irish tale.

"You have to follow your voice and do what works for you."

### TELLING TALES

Join the Detroit Story League at its monthly meeting or try a story slam. Here's a list of upcoming events:

» Moth Story Slam, 7 p.m. Nov. 6, Cliff Bell's 2030 Park Ave., Detroit, and 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18 at Circus Bar, 210 S. First Ave., Ann Arbor. Prepare a five-minute story on the theme — this month it's "last minute" for Detroit and "accidents" for Ann Arbor — toss your name in the hat, and if your name is pulled, tell your true, personal story live without notes. Volunteers from the audience judge the stories. Adults only. Admission \$5 in Detroit, \$6 in Ann Arbor. Visit theMoth.org for more information.

» Detroit Story League meets noon to 3 p.m. the third Saturday of the month, except July. Coffee and dessert (bring your own lunch) is at noon, stories and workshops at 1 p.m. and business meeting at 2:30 p.m. Upcoming sessions are Nov. 15 at the Berkley Public Library, 3155 Coolidge, south of 12 Mile, Berkley; and Dec. 20 at the Redford Township Library, 25320 W. Six Mile, Redford Township. detroitstorytelling.org

» Free Family Tellabration! with Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild, 2 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Pittsfield Branch of the Ann Arbor District Library, 2359 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor. The Tellabration! for adults is 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd. \$15 at the door. alaurastory@gmail.com

» Detroit Story League presents Tellabration! a Night of Storytelling for Adults, 6 p.m. silent auction, 7 p.m. storytelling, followed by refreshments, Nov. 21 at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Features Yvonne Healy, Carolyn Graves, Chrissy Begle and Tone Ross as maestro. \$5 at the door; 248-476-8515, detroitstorytelling.org.

» Detroit Association of Black Storytellers meets 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 22 at the Charles Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. Includes story, workshop, refreshments and business meeting. Call Pam Williams at 248-836-7499 or visit detroitassociationof-blackstorytellers.com.

## Garden City dog day care collecting pet, people food

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Stacy Karafotis hopes two of the kennels at her dog day care business in Garden City will be packed — not with furry friends, but groceries — by Dec. 20.

Karafotis, who co-owns Lucky Dog Luxury Daycare and Boarding, is asking the community to donate pet and people food to help fill empty tummies this holiday season. She's collecting the contributions in two kennel spaces usually used for boarding dogs and hopes each will be filled to capacity when the food drive ends.

"I've listed (online) what things are recommended for the food pantry," Karafotis said. "Most people think of canned food, but they don't think of things like peanut butter and jelly. They don't think of condiments or coffee. Someone who can't afford food is not getting coffee."

"People can bring in canned fruits, vegetables, noodles, sauce, crackers and snacks, cereal, toothbrushes, toothpaste," she said. Pet foods can be dry or canned and treats also will be accepted.

Karafotis and business partner Craig Poisson plan to distribute the pet food to three



Stacy Karafotis of Lucky Dog Luxury Daycare and Boarding hopes to fill these kennels with people and pet foods.



A team from Lucky Dog Luxury Daycare and Boarding walks with the annual Mega March for Animals. The group raised \$650 for the Michigan Humane Society.



Portsmouth's left eye was removed. Guardian Angel Animal Rescue is asking for donations to help with medical costs.

local rescues and will give the groceries to the food pantry at the Maplewood Community Center and First United Methodist Church of Garden City.

Lucky Dog has been involved in several community and outreach projects since it opened Nov. 1, 2013. Karafotis regularly gives local rescues discounts on boarding and grooming and she recently rounded up a team of walkers for the Michigan Humane Society's annual Mega March for Animals. The group raised \$650.

"We've been open a year and we've placed six dogs in homes," Karafotis said. "We had a couple of owners who died and we took the dogs. We had some cats from Garden

City Fire Department. We have a lot of people who lose their dogs and we put it on Facebook and find them, sometimes within 24 hours. We have a (microchip) scanner here."

Lucky Dog's entry took third place in the annual Garden City chili cook-off and it sponsored a "Blessing of the Animals" in early October.

"We're trying to do a community event every month," Karafotis said.

Lucky Dog is open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, at 5921 Middlebelt. For more information about the food drive, call 734-261-PETS or visit luckydoggardencity.com.

### Injured cat

Guardian Angel Animal Rescue in Livonia is asking for

donations to help pay medical costs for a cat named Portsmouth who was found injured at a local apartment complex.

Sandy Mezza, president, said residents discovered the cat because they could hear his "constant calls of distress." She said they took Portsmouth to a shelter that offered to euthanize him because of the extent of his injuries.

"The residents then called us," Mezza said. "We rushed him to the vet where we learned that the inside of his mouth had been burned, his lower jaw was cracked in half" and he sustained extensive eye damage.

His jaw was wired and the damaged eye was removed. A feeding tube was inserted into his neck for feeding while his jaw healed.

"After a week stay at the vet, he came to his foster home where his Guardian Angel foster mom and volunteer fed him through his feeding tube every four hours. Despite everything he endured he always remained in good spirits and would express his thanks to us with gentle pats of his paw and near-constant purring."

Portsmouth now eats on his own but won't be ready for adoption until he is completely healed. Mezza hopes to have him placed in a home by Christmas.

Send donations to Guardian Angel Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 511309 Livonia, MI 48151. Visit gaarmichigan.org or call Mezza at 734-788-6857



PET PROJECTS



**WEDDING**

**FLORKOWSKI-CROOK**

Katherine Jane Florkowski and Joshua Brent Crook were married Oct. 25, 2014, in a private ceremony under the gazebo in Ashpoint Park, Columbus, Ohio. Tim Crook, brother of the groom, officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Ron and Dawn Florkowski of Livonia. The groom is the son of Joel and Sarah Crook of Jacksonville, Ala. In addition to the couple's parents, attendants included the bride's sister, Elizabeth Florkowski, Lyndsay Pepple, and Stephanie and Mike Grieshop.

The newlyweds will make their home in Miami, Fla.



Katherine Jane Florkowski and Joshua Brent Crook

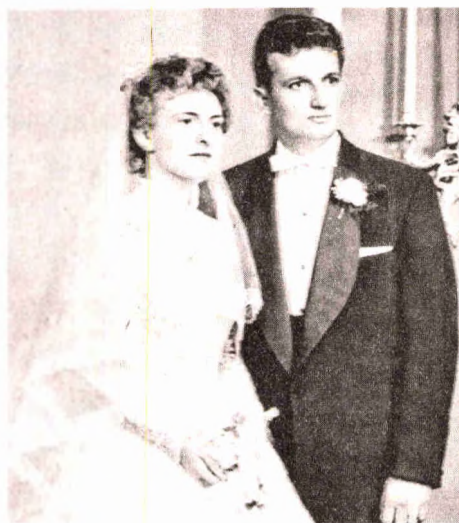
SUBMITTED

**ANNIVERSARY**



Ted and Jane Potok of Livonia

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Jane and Ted Potok on their wedding day in 1954

**CELEBRATING 60 YEARS**

A simple question of "Would you like to dance?" spoken in 1953 at a Polish dance hall called "Dom Polski," led to 60 years of wedded bliss for Ted and Jane Potok (Przekota) of Livonia.

They were married Oct 16, 1954, at Transfiguration Church in Detroit.

Ted served in the U. S. Army during World War II in the 126 Ordnance (Medium Maintenance) Company. His unit provided mechanical vehicle support to various Army infantry divisions in England, France, Belgium and Germany from 1943-45. After the war ended, Ted enrolled at the University of Detroit, where he earned a degree in accounting. He worked as an auditor in the Department of Treasury for the State of Michigan for 39 years, retiring in 1986.

Jane worked as a secretarial stenographer, and her last salaried job was with the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, which she left in 1963 to raise and nurture her growing family.

The Potoks have four children: Felicia Potok (Patrick Fillingim) of Dayton, Ohio; Michelle Stablow (Eric) of Aliso Viejo, Calif.; Tim Potok (Andrea) of Rochester Hills; and Steve Potok of

Rochester Hills. "Busia" and "Dziadzia" have nine grandchildren, ranging from 13-20 years old.

The Potoks are charter members of St. Aidan's Catholic Church in Livonia. Ted served as a Eucharistic minister, sang in the choir and participated in many fundraising drives, Men's Club activities and harvest festivals. Jane assisted with the children's religious education program and supported bake sales, Christmas bazaars, cookbook creations and Agape luncheons through the Ladies' Guild.

The anniversary couple spent the majority of their retirement years traveling. They visited Hawaii, Alaska, Europe, Great Britain, China and Israel, as well as many cities within the continental United States. Their favorite trips, however, have always been the trips to see their grandchildren. In addition to traveling, Jane and Ted have kept busy with gardening, small engine repair, crossword puzzles, watching *Dancing with the Stars* on television and cheering on the Detroit Tigers and Detroit Lions.

A small family celebration is planned for later this year.

**Passages**

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

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**ALLISON, ERNEST JAMES**

Age 68. Born October 2, 1945 in Plymouth, Michigan. Died September 21, 2014 in Demorest, Georgia. Son of the late Frank and Jeanet Allison. Grew up in Plymouth, MI. Veteran of U.S. Air Force. Survived by brother John R. (Sue) Allison and sister Jill Allison (David H.) Miller. Nephew Geoffrey J. Miller and Allison Miller Kauffuss also survive.



**MOLONEY-PELTO, BRIDGET ANNE**

skipped cheerfully through the gates of Heaven this week while singing robustly. She passed on Tuesday, October 28, 2014. She was at home, surrounded by family, as we prayed her home. It was a supernatural spiritual event! Sad, but joyful, as we know she will spend eternity with her savior, Jesus Christ. She was born in Detroit on September 8, 1959, to Perry and Dolores (Thurner) Moloney. Sadly, she was preceded in death by her mother in 2008. In addition to her father, Perry, she is survived by siblings, Dianne and Ralph Chamberlain, Colleen and John Schneider, and James and Kelley Moloney; six nieces and nephews; one great-nephew; her husband, Kevin Peltto; and sons, Justin and Julie Peltto, with twin daughters Riley and Reese, Ross Peltto, with children Mallory Lil Ross, and Luke Peltto, a single man. Bridget was in the restaurant business her whole working life and had a presence that would command any dining room or bar. She had a huge, loyal clientele and considered it a party she attended every day and still got paid handsomely for it! Bridget was simply a joy to be around. She would be the happiest person in the room, and always the most fun to be with. She loved nature, starting as a little girl with camping trips to state parks around Michigan. Dolores and Gerry Bourke would have their broods up all summer, with the dads coming up on weekends. In later years she loved "Up North" at the family cottages in Harrisville, Lewiston, Frederick, and Mackinaw City, enjoying crowds of nephews, nieces, parents, kids, friends, in-laws, and the outlaws. Bridget and Kevin explored caves, waterfalls, lighthouses, glaciers, mountains, seashores, mosses, woods, deserts, and prairies all over Michigan's peninsulas, and from Southern Mexico, to Canada, and Northern Alaska. East, West, South and North. Bridget was triumphant for the last 3 years in her battle with her rare cancer sino-mucosol melanoma cancer, outliving her life-expectancy by a long shot. She had endured 12 surgeries, mostly to her head, countless radiations, and months of chemo. During good days, she and Kevin would jump in the car, or hop on a plane, and go live life to the fullest! Many world cruises with Perry, Dianne, Colleen, and others, were part of the healing process as well. Bridget was the toughest person one could know. She has almost 700 friends on the Facebook page, "Prayers and Positive Thoughts for Bridget Moloney" (thanks to longtime friend, Krissy Jacobs, for managing this). She has inspired people around the globe by her tenacity, joy, spirit, never give up attitude, and her love for others. Faith, family, and friends are what sustained her and our family throughout these years. She will be missed by all, and it is the end of the "Kev and Bridge Show" as we know it. In closing, Bridget would like you to remember her life, and to honor her by doing the following: love your spouse, visit your parents, nurture your children, have meals with your siblings and extended family, call your friends, notice nature, have a personal relationship with Jesus, and always love and pet your skunks, or your other pets. Amen. Visitation at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (between 9-10 Mile Rds., just N. of Grand River), downtown Farmington, on Monday, November 3, noon-9 p.m., with a 7 p.m. Celebration of Life Ceremony. Memorial Mass Tuesday, November 4, 11 a.m. at St. Gerald Catholic Church, 21300 Farmington Rd., Farmington. Memorial gifts suggested to either the U of M Comprehensive Cancer Center's Melanoma Clinic or an 11 year old girl named "Pri" that Bridget sponsored through World Vision. Please make all checks payable to "Kevin Peltto" for appropriate distribution.



**WELLS, SR. REPRESENTATIVE PETER FLETCHER,**

Of Commerce, MI, died unexpectedly on Sunday, September 21, 2014 at the age of 71. Pete was the caring husband of Sally for nearly fifty years; warm and affectionate father to Peter Jr. and Stacy; and proud grandfather to Peter III, Nicholas, Nick, Chloe, and Elijah. Pete has a twin sister Sil and older brother Doug. He was much loved by his friends all around the country. Pete was born in Providence, Rhode Island to Dorothy and Douglas Wells, and spent his early years in Barrington. After leaving the service in the Air Force, Pete moved to Maine and attended college for several years. Pete raised their family in Amherst, New Hampshire in a loving household filled with laughter. Pete's work life included the Gulf Oil Company, Valicenti Realty, Tinkham Realty, but his best achievements were real estate ventures with Sally and their companies, S.A. Wells & Co. (salon) and Treasures Antiques and Collectibles. During his time in Amherst, Pete was an active and positive contributor to the community. He enjoyed local and state politics serving as a Town Selectman, School and Town Board Moderator, and three terms as a New Hampshire State Legislator representing Amherst and Bedford. Pete volunteered on the Rescue Squad, was a member of the Rotary Club and known for always helping others. In 2001 Pete and Sally moved to Michigan to launch businesses with their daughter. As an Executive Director and owner of L'esprit Salon & Spa and L'esprit Academy School for Hair, Skin and Nails (of Livonia and Royal Oak, MI), Pete lent his knowledge and experience to students and staff ensuring the companies' spot as a leader in the beauty industry. Pete loved anything with a motor, wheels or smelling of gasoline. His humor, smile, and ability to make anyone feel important were second to none. He loved his country and family was his greatest pride. A life celebration "For Pete's Sake" was held at his lakeside home in Michigan to commemorate his achievements and impact on those who knew him. A memorial fund in his honor has been established and contributions can be made to "The Peter F. Wells, Sr. Memorial Fund" at Fifth Third Bank (Michigan) or donations in his honor to The Wounded Warrior Project.



**SCHULTZ, WILLIAM A.**

October 30, 2014 Age 68. Beloved husband of Stephanie Strauss for 37 years. Father of Christine Shoef. Grandfather of Emma. Dear brother of Kathleen Wolstone. Loving brother-in-law of Allyson Henstock (Charles) and Eric Strauss (Lori). Devoted son-in-law of Gertrude Strauss. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends. Bill was a proud graduate of Michigan State University. He was an auto enthusiast who enjoyed hunting, fishing and golf. Family will receive friends Monday 2-6p.m. at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile), 248-549-0500. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to the Michigan Humane Society. Sign guestbook and share memories at [DesmondFuneralHome.com](http://DesmondFuneralHome.com)



**BUSICK, MICHAEL C.**

September 22, 2014. Age 53 of Westland. Beloved son of the late Grover and Betty. Brother of Daniel (Tammy), Judith (Mark) Decker, Michele (Darren) Morris, and the late Debra (Michael) Gilhooly. Memorial service from The Uht Funeral Home, Westland, Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 2 p.m. Family will receive guests at the funeral home from 12 until time of service. Please view memorial and send tributes at [www.uhtfh.com](http://www.uhtfh.com)

**DVORAK, JOHN**

Age 89 of Washington, Michigan, formerly from Cleveland, passed away October 29, 2014. Beloved husband of the late Adelyn "Ade". Survived by his children, James (Pam), Jean (Steve), Patricia (Tom), Margaret, Elizabeth (Joe), and Jane. Also survived by eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Preceded in death by his sister Mary Ann Toledo. Funeral Monday 10 a.m. at St. Clement Catholic Church, Romeo. Visitation Saturday 6-8 p.m. and Sunday from 2-7 p.m. at Malburg Funeral Home, Romeo, Michigan. Full obit at [www.henrymalburg.com](http://www.henrymalburg.com).

**In Loving Memory Of**



**ROBERT F. WESLIN**

September 24, 1941 - November 4, 2004. Loved and missed by his family and friends. God has you in his keeping. We have you in our hearts. Janice, Jeff and Anne



**MORRISON, LYNNE D**

Age 53, of Sanford, Michigan died Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at home. She was born September 22, 1961 in Midland, daughter of James and Jean (Franklin) Dion. Lynne graduated from Midland High School in 1980 and received a Bachelor's Degree from Northwood University. She married Larry Wayne Morrison at Poseyville United Methodist Church on May 18, 1984 and was employed by Dow Coming Corporation for 35 years. Lynne is survived by her husband Wayne, of Sanford, parents, James and Jean Dion of Midland and sister and brother-in-law, Lisa (James) Schmidt of Nokomis, Florida. She is also survived by her in-laws, Larry and Sharron Morrison, brother-in-law, Michael (Michele) Morrison, nephews Aaron and Tyler Morrison all of Livonia and her sister-in-law, Jana (Char) Morrison of Kenosha, Wisconsin. The family wants to express their appreciation for the loving and skillful care received by The University of Michigan Departments of Radiation Oncology and Neuro-oncology. In keeping with Lynne's wishes cremation has been arranged through the Wilson MILLER Funeral Home. A private memorial service for immediate family will be held at a later date. Those planning an expression of sympathy may consider the Humane Society of Midland County, P.O.B. 1034, Midland, MI 48641-1034. Personal messages of condolence may be left with [www.wilson-miller.com](http://www.wilson-miller.com)



heeney-sundquist.com  
**HEENEY-SUNDQUIST FUNERAL HOME**

**ENGAGEMENT**

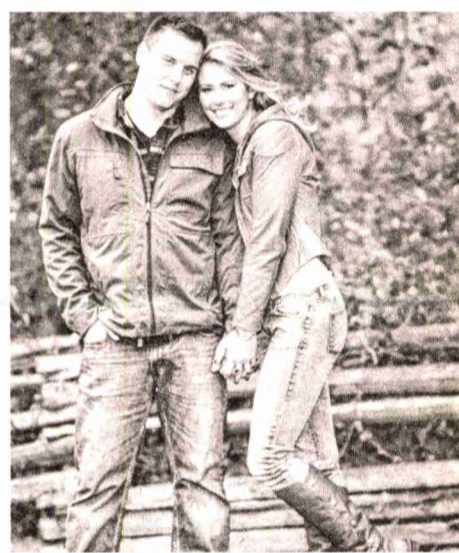
**BAUGHMAN-CHRISTENSON**

David and Barbara Baughman of Farmington Hills are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly, to Jacob Christenson, son of Candice Christenson of Northville and the late Thomas Christenson.

The bride-to-be, a 2007 graduate of Farmington High School, earned a bachelor of science degree in advertising and public relations from Grand Valley State University. She is employed at Plastomer Corporation in Livonia.

The groom-to-be, a 2008 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School, earned a bachelor of arts degree in international relations from Grand Valley State University. He is employed at US Farathane in Auburn Hills.

The couple plans a wedding in October 2015 in Bloomfield Hills.



Jake Christenson and Kim Baughman

SUBMITTED

**ENGAGEMENT**

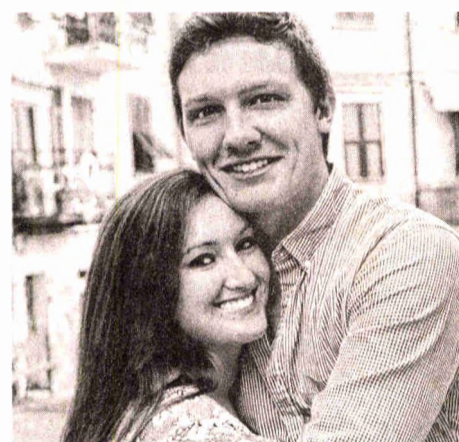
**O'FLYNN-KAY**

Dennis and Loretta O'Flynn of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Samantha, to Trevor Kay, son of Tom and Carol Kay of Oswego, Ill.

Samantha graduated in 2013 from Michigan State University with a B.S. degree in dietetics. She is a registered dietitian at Wayne Health and Rehab Center.

Trevor graduated in 2014 from Michigan State University with a B.A. degree in criminal justice. He is a second lieutenant in the Michigan Army National Guard.

The wedding is set for September 2015 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth Township.



Samantha O'Flynn and Trevor Kay

SUBMITTED

**Sound of music: Singers entertain, inspire through Therapy Choirs**

Get into the holiday spirit with Therapy Choirs of Michigan 1:30-3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4, at Sanctuary of Villa Marie, 15131 Newburgh, Livonia.

Therapy Choirs of Michigan is a nonprofit organization that offers group singing as a therapeutic experience to individuals recovering from stroke, head injury and those with developmental disabilities. Its choirs are based in a Farmington Hills rehabilitation center and the Macomb Oakland Regional Center (M.O.R.C.) Volunteer Voices, an adjunct to the choirs, is made up of "friends" of the group. It also runs a youth choir in Livingston County.

Len McCulloch, direc-



Len McCulloch and Therapy Choirs of Michigan will perform Nov. 4 in Livonia.

SUBMITTED

tor, says the choir is about "more than just singing." He says the choirs enhance self-esteem, alleviate depression, increase socialization and help memory. No singing skills are necessary.

The upcoming program will include singers from both the Farming-

ton and M.O.R.C. choirs, a harmony duet with guitar accompaniment, Volunteer Voices with students from St. Edith School, a soloist from the Livingston County Youth Choir and friends from the Finnish Chorus.

For more information, call McCulloch at 248-933-4112.



## Take the Better U challenge to improve heart health

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

The American Heart Association and St. John Providence Health System are ready to help you survive the upcoming holiday season of too many sweets, overly-fatty foods, and sedentary celebrating.

Better U, a 12-week campaign to motivate women to improve their heart health, runs from November through Jan. 24, 2015. The program challenges women to assess their health and get a "heart score" at [www.mylifecheck.org](http://www.mylifecheck.org). Then, to improve their health and increase their score, they can participate in a variety of workshops and classes locally. The challenge ends just in time for AHA's annual Go Red For Women campaign in February 2015.

"Go Red is a little different," said Melissa Thrasher, communications director for the American Heart Association, Midwest Affiliate. "Go



Chef Nezaa Bandle will demonstrate healthy holiday cooking as a part of the American Heart Association's Better U challenge.

Red is more of an educational campaign with resources online. I would say Better U is rolled into Go Red. There are a lot of fun elements with this."

Free cooking demonstrations, mall walking, exercise boot camps, Zumba lessons

and more will be offered during the challenge throughout Metro Detroit to help participants meet their heart health goals.

"It's based on the My Life Check tool, the seven simple ways to improve your life,"

Thrasher noted. The "simple seven" are controlling cholesterol, eating better, getting active, managing blood pressure, losing weight, reducing blood sugar and stopping smoking.

Participants can register for activities at [stjohnprovidence.org/ClassEnrollment](http://stjohnprovidence.org/ClassEnrollment) and select Go Red on the drop-down menu.

### Share the journey

They can listen to podcasts that feature health experts at [stjohnprovidence.org/gored/](http://stjohnprovidence.org/gored/) and they can post photos of themselves participating in the 12-week challenge by using the hashtag #MIBetterU on Twitter @AHA\_SEMI or on Facebook at [facebook.com/AHASEMI](http://facebook.com/AHASEMI).

A select group of women who want to share their stories will participate in the Spotlight on U segment of the challenge. They'll debut at the Go Red Premiere Party and their 12-week journey will be highlighted at the Go Red For Women

Luncheon Feb. 6, 2015.

The Go Red Premiere Party, 7-10 p.m. Nov. 14, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, will include healthy hors d'oeuvres, dancing, health information and stories from women who improved their heart health. Cocktail attire and red shoes are requested. Admission is \$5. Roop Raj of Fox 2 News will serve as master of ceremonies.

Joan Crawford, D.O., a cardiologist at St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospitals, also will talk about women and heart disease, "the No. 1 killer of women."

"We hope to offer attendees a wake-up call while warning women of their risk factors," Crawford said.

To RSVP, visit <http://GoRed-PremiereParty2014.Eventbrite.com> by Nov. 7 or call Laura Elsenety at 248-936-5828 or email [laura.elsenety](mailto:laura.elsenety).

## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### Upcoming

#### Brain injury conference

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan presents a "Quality of Life" conference for survivors of brain injuries, their families and caregivers, 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia. Doors will open at 8 a.m. Cost for survivors and families is \$20 per person. Cost for staff or aides, \$10 per person. Pre-register by calling 810-229-5880 or visit [biami.org/novembere-conference](http://biami.org/novembere-conference).

#### Cancer center benefit

Fall Into Fashion, a fashion show with a raffle, light dinner fare, dessert and live music, 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9 at the Masonic Temple, 2375 Farmington Road, Farmington,

benefits the Botsford Cancer Center. Tickets \$25 per person. Call Merle Norman at 248-477-3033

#### Celiac support

Lauren Madigan, M.D., a dermatologist affiliated with the Henry Ford Health System, will talk about dermatitis herpetiformis and its relationship to celiac disease, at the next meeting of the Tri County Celiac Support Group, 7 p.m. Nov. 10 at the First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington. [tccsg.net](http://tccsg.net)

#### Diabetes fair

Eighth annual U-M Diabetes Health Fair, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Sheraton Ann Arbor, 3200 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor, is free and will include health screenings, exhibits, vendors, giveaways, crafts corner for kids and a

food cooking demo at noon with chef Curtis Aikens. Brandon Roux, WDIV-TV meteorologist, will be master of ceremonies. [diabetes@umich.edu](mailto:diabetes@umich.edu) or 734-763-0177.

#### Healthy eating

Upcoming nutrition workshops and cooking demonstrations from Botsford Hospital and Busch's Fresh Foods Market:

» Chef Rebecca Wauldron and Botsford dietician Denise Cykiert will give tips on keeping recipes nutritious, 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills. Cost is \$15; 248-427-7400.

» Dietitian Denise Cykiert will offer quick, easy recipes for crock pot cookery, 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, at Busch's, 37083 Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$5; 734-779-6100.

St. John Providence Community Health also offers a free presentation on healthy holiday eating, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 17, in Fisher Auditorium at Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield. Register at 888-751-5465.

#### Hearing loss support

Robert Hong, M.D., Ph.D., will present "Beyond Conventional Hearing Aids," at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. For more information, call Tony at 734-664-3297 or email [afcrack@comcast.net](mailto:afcrack@comcast.net).

#### Kidney Smart classes

Participants will learn about how kidneys function, the causes of chronic kidney disease, how to manage related health conditions such as dia-

betes and hypertension, treatment choices and more. The 90-minute sessions are free.

» 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, and 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Westland Dialysis, 36533 Ford Road, Westland

» 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16, New Hope Church, 44815 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

To register and find more locations, visit [www.kidneysmart.org](http://www.kidneysmart.org) or call Angela Humble, R.D., at 864-525-9599

#### Pelvic floor disorders

Salil Khandwala, M.D. will talk about symptoms and treatment options for pelvic floor disorders, 5:30-7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10, at the Oakwood Physical Therapy & Wellness Center, 17101 Rotunda Drive, Dearborn. For more information, call 800-543-WELL or register online at [oakwood.org/classes](http://oakwood.org/classes).



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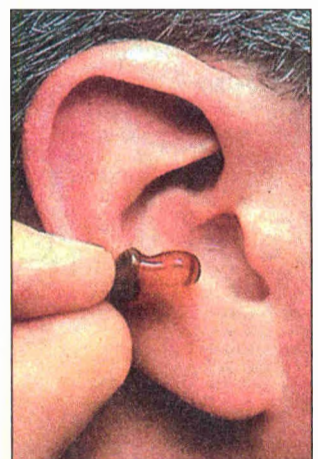
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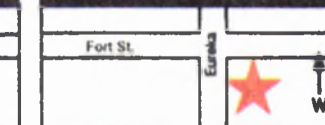
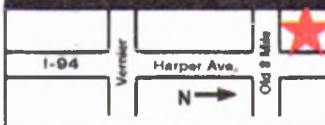
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