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## Price is right (choice) for township board



MATT JACHMAN

Shannon Price speaks Tuesday to the Plymouth Township board. Price was appointed the next township supervisor Thursday by a 4-2 vote.

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

Shannon Price will be Plymouth Township's next township supervisor.

Price, a Republican Wayne County commissioner in his second term, was appointed by a 4-2 Board of Trustees vote about an hour into a special meeting Thursday. He was among eight candidates who were interviewed for the job during Tuesday's regular board meeting.

He will replace Supervisor Richard Reaume, whose last day on the job is Monday. Price moved to the township from Canton Township earlier this

year.

The vote brought an angry reaction from many in the crowd at township hall, with scattered shouts of "fix!" heard in the board meeting room. One man passed out yellow placards on which the word "fix" was printed in large type and about 10 people briefly held them up.

Trustee Bob Doroshewitz, who had been one of the supervisor hopefuls, stalked out of the room after shouting "no" into his microphone during the roll-call vote. Trustee Chuck Curmi also voted no.

"I like Shannon. I don't think it's his time," Doroshewitz said moments before the vote was

taken.

### 'Driven a wedge'

"There are so many people in this community who are going to see it as an absolute fraud and they're not going to think it's legitimate, no matter what he does," he added.

Reaume, the supervisor for 10 years, had been the target of a recall campaign along with three other board members — all of whom voted for Price — and several people involved in the recall effort expressed dismay at the appointment. Some said another pick for supervisor would have meant a better chance for a divided community to heal.

"You have not fooled the people of this township," Bill Carter said. "You've driven a wedge deeper and deeper."

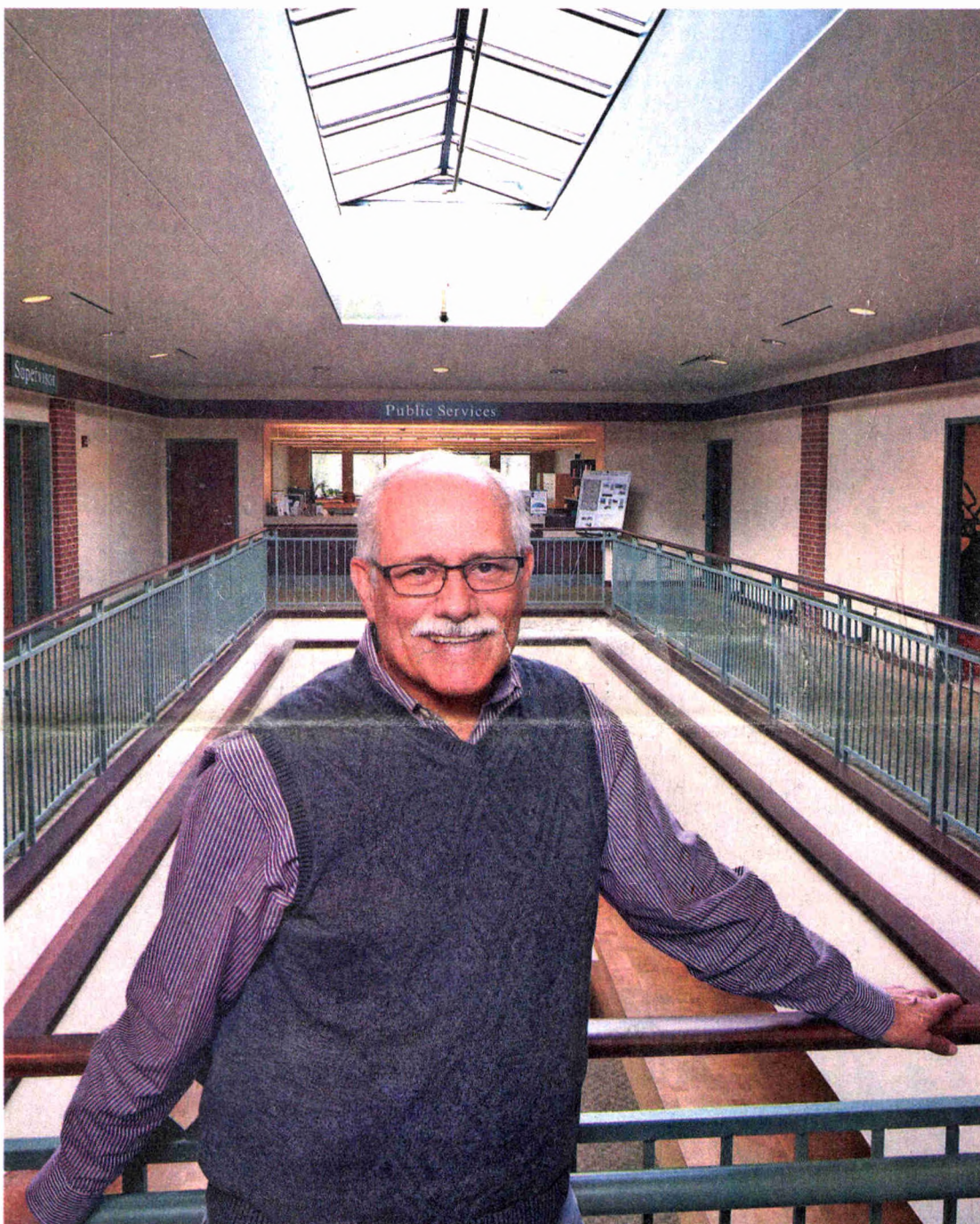
"You're going to reap what you sow and I'm just appalled," Doreen Sharpe said.

"I'm disgusted with you as a board because you will not learn. You will not listen to us," said Sandy Groth, a leader of the recall movement.

Price had fans in the crowd as well.

"He's got a burning desire to make this township a better place to live," Robert Harris told the board before the votes were cast.

See PRICE, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Supervisor Richard Reaume will soon leave township hall, built during his time in office.

## Outgoing Reaume bids 'outstanding community' farewell

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

From an assembly-line worker to the guy in charge of a \$26 million, 90-employee outfit known as Plymouth Township, Richard Reaume has followed a winding career path.

Now, as he wraps up that career, his path will be mainly between central Florida, where he plans to retire, and Traverse City, where he will spend the summers. Reaume, the township's elected supervisor since November 2004, announced March 15 that he will resign. Monday is his last day on the job.

Not ordinarily given to bragging about accomplishments, Reaume said he leaves township government in good shape, with infrastructure and recreation improvements completed or on the drawing boards, money-saving measures in place and a local economy that's humming after the recent recession brought years of corporate job cuts, decreased proper-

ty values and cuts in township tax revenue.

"We grew into an outstanding community," Reaume said in his office recently. That despite the national recession that hit the auto industry-dependent Detroit area particularly hard.

"Those were difficult times and we did it all without raising taxes," Reaume said.

Reaume is "the best supervisor this township's had if you look at everything that's been done," said Treasurer Ron Edwards, who's been in office for 18 years.

"I think the community's way better off than when he took office and I hope we can continue down that road," Edwards said.

### Retirement dreams

Reaume leaves following a recall attempt and amid frustration on the part of a vocal group of residents who say their concerns and input on township projects are not being heard.

See REAUME, Page A2

## Price promises he'll listen to residents

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Shannon Price told the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees that his first priority if he were to be named supervisor would be to listen to residents.

On Thursday, following his appointment by a 4-2 board vote, Price said he knows he's got a lot of listening to do.

The selection of Price, who will take office this week following Supervisor Richard Reaume's last day on the job Monday, drew bitter reactions from many in the board meeting room at township hall.

Price was supported by three of the four board members who were under the threat of a recall. Some involved in the recall effort claimed the vote was orchestrated ahead of time and that other candidates had better qualifications and deeper roots in the community. Price, a Republican on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, moved with his family to the township earlier this year from Canton Township.

After Thursday's meeting, Price said he recognized the divisions in the community, but he's confident he can overcome them. He asked for time to do that. "The hard work begins now," he said.

He said he plans to meet soon with township department heads and then with employees and that he will make every effort to get out in the community, as well.

### 'Let them be heard'

"You're going to have to go to every neighborhood association. You're going to have to

meet with people," he said.

Price said he believes a lot of the frustration shown by residents Thursday stemmed from their feeling that they are not being heard — and those involved in the recall campaign have said not being heard is at the root of it. Price said that, as supervisor, he will work to hear them and all residents.

"The best way to do that is to meet with them and let them be heard," he said.

He rejected the label of "carpetbagger," saying he represented the township on the county commission for more than two years and knocked on many doors while campaigning for that job. Price was first elected in 2012 and won a second two-year term last November.

Clerk Nancy Conzelman, a Price supporter, said having him as supervisor will give the township a bigger voice in its dealings with the county, on which it is heavily dependent in some areas, such as road maintenance. Price has been able to win big projects for the township, Conzelman said, such as the reconstruction of Beck Road up to Ann Arbor Trail, which is planned for this year.

### 'He's very smart'

"He's a very collaborative person. He builds bridges and he's very smart and I think that he'll be able to do a great job leading the township," Conzelman said Friday.

Treasurer Ron Edwards, who also voted for Price, said he's also confident the new supervisor can "mend the fences and move forward."

See LISTEN, Page A2

## Marshmallow Drop ushers in Easter holiday in Wayne County



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eight-month-old Henry Cusson, in the arms of aunt Betty Calhoun, isn't too sure about the intentions of the giant rabbit who wants a high-five.

The Easter Bunny visited the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland for the annual Marshmallow Drop. For a story and photos, turn to pages A6-7.



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# Canton Dem Club to host forum on proposal to fix roads

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Citing confusion over a May 5 ballot proposal to increase Michigan's sales tax to raise road-fixing money, the Canton Democratic Club has decided to host a public forum to educate voters.

Proponents say the ballot measure is desperately needed because it would generate about \$1.3 billion a year to repair Michigan's crumbling roads and bridges. Opponents, however, contend the state can find alternatives other than a tax increase.

Canton Democrats plan to host the forum at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center.

"It's a confusing issue and a confusing ballot question, so I want to get as much information to the community as possible and provide details about the ballot question," said Steven Sneiderman, Canton Democratic Club president and township board trustee.

"I sense that many people in the community are split on the proposal,

if they have decided at all on the issue," he added. "I think it's important to discuss it before we go to the polls in May."

That said, the Canton Democratic Club has decided to refrain from taking a formal position on the ballot measure which, according to the latest polls, appears to be struggling in public support.

Sommer Foster, the club's vice president, said the forum's panelists will include Sneiderman; former state House 20th District candidate Nate Smith-Tyge, 21st District state Rep. Kristy Pagan; and Julie Rowe, Michigan legislative director for the American Federation of Teachers.

Residents and legislators appear sharply divided over the ballot proposal, which would raise the state sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent, among other measures. It would raise about \$1.3 billion a year for roads and, according to some estimates, more than \$200 million for K-12 schools, \$116 million for transit and rail and \$111 million for local governments.

## PRICE

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Harris also said the pro-recall, anti-Price voices were not representative of the whole township.

### Treasurer support

Treasurer Ron Edwards, a Price supporter and a recall target, said the vote in favor of Price was not prearranged. Price, Edwards said, "can bring people together" despite the animosity displayed Thursday after the appointment.

"I honestly think he can mend the fences and move forward," Edwards said by phone late Thursday night. Price is one of two Republicans on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners and the fact he's been able to work with the commission's Democrats and get things done in that role bodes well, Edwards said.

"I think he's going to be able to do a job comparable to what Richard

(Reaume) did," Edwards said.

Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Trustee Kay Arnold are the other targets of the recall petition drive. Both voted for Price, as did Trustee Mike Kelly.

In addition to Doroshewitz and Curmi, the other candidates for supervisor were retired Ford Motor Co. executive Ray Byers; Steven Birmingham, a project manager in the logistics field; banking executive Mark G. Cords; Ronald Bullotta, a retired manufacturer's representative and management executive; and state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township.

### Top pick for three

Before the formal vote, Price had finished with the most points as board members made their top three choices, each board member giving three points to his or her top choice, two to the second choice and one to the third as they narrowed the field.

Edwards, Conzelman and Arnold all made

Price their top choice, while Kelly made him his second choice, giving Price a total of 11 points. Neither Doroshewitz nor Curmi gave any points to themselves and both made Byers their top pick. (Curmi was Doroshewitz's third pick, while Doroshewitz was Curmi's second).

Heise, who has said he intends to run for supervisor in 2016, left the meeting when it became clear he had not finished in the top three. Later, he emailed a statement on the decision.

"Tonight, four members of the township board put politics ahead of people. They appointed someone who moved here two months ago, with no relevant education and very little experience," he wrote, in part. "There were clearly other candidates with superior public and private sector backgrounds."

Price stood in the back of the room as the meeting ended, accepting congratulations from well-wishers and talking

to reporters. He said he recognized the divisions evidenced by some of the reactions to the vote and that he would work to overcome them.

He also said he was gratified by the appointment. Price will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the township government and will lead board meetings. The post pays about \$111,000 a year.

"I'm honored by the support of the board," Price said. "I also understand that there's a lot of work to do."

Price will serve the remainder of Reaume's current term, which expires Nov. 20, 2016. He will have to run for office if he wants to keep the job and has said he intends to do so.

Reaume, who turned 65 in December, announced March 15 that he planned to resign and retire to Florida. He was in the middle of his third four-year term.

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## LISTEN

Continued from Page A1

He praised Reaume's economic development efforts during his time in office and said Price will follow that lead.

"Richard's been very

good at it. I think Shannon's going to continue doing that," Edwards said.

Price said he intends to resign immediately from the county commission and from Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette's office, where he works part

time in constituent relations.

Price worked for the U.S. Postal Service as a mail carrier in Westland for three years in the 1990s, then moved into the information technology field before getting involved in politics. He has a bachelor's degree

in computer science from Baker College.

He and wife Jacqueline have two children, Madeline, 11, and Braden, 8.

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## REAUME

Continued from Page A1

But he insists he's leaving on his own terms, that the recall drive had no bearing on his decision and that he's weathered plenty of controversies in the past, such as in 2012, when firefighters were laid off and a fire station closed in a cost-cutting move, drawing large crowds to Board of Trustees meetings.

"Is there controversy? Yeah," he said. "Look around us: What community didn't have controversy?"

The idea of retiring occurred to him last summer, he said. "I started realizing I was going to have a 65th birthday," he said.

He started asking himself, he said, if he could indeed retire. "You plan for it your whole life," he said. Reaume will walk away with just his 401(k) money. The township gives him no pension and no retirement health care.

Reaume, who never

married and raised three adopted daughters as a single father, said he plans to stay active in retirement. A runner since high school, he's competed in distance events for more than 30 years, including more than 30 marathons and about 250 triathlons — running, swimming and bicycling combinations.

"I'll have more time for running and recovery," Reaume said.

Reaume started competitive running when he worked at IBM and was invited to join running colleagues. He said the fitness, personal fulfillment and camaraderie he found kept him motivated.

"Why do people golf? Why do people play tennis?" he said.

### Beginnings

Reaume graduated from Dearborn High School and Wayne State University, attending college part time while a full-time autoworker. He worked at General Motors Corp.'s long-closed Clark Street assembly plant, where Cadillacs were once built.

Following service in the U.S. Army, Reaume attended the University of Texas at Austin on the GI Bill, earning a master's degree in business administration in 1979. He worked for IBM for five years, then for a start-up that installed, serviced and trained people to use personal computers, which were new at the time.

In 1984, he purchased his house in the township. "Plymouth Township had the low taxes and the

good property values and it was close to Hines Park," he said. The latter feature, he said, was important for his training runs.

Later, he worked for a local company that specialized in proprietary financial software. When his girls came along, in the early 1990s, he went to work on his own, becoming an independent agent for the shipping company Airborne Express.

Reaume said he wanted to spend more time at home and make raising his daughters, to whom he is biologically an uncle, a priority.

"I was raising kids, I was in the schools. I was very involved," he said. He was in parent-teacher organizations, school booster clubs, coached youth sports and even served as a homeroom dad, he said.

### Only connect

It's the connections he made during that time that got him into politics.

"You develop a relationship with people. You know who they are. That's how a lot of the people got to know me," he said. Some of those people, he said, encouraged him to get involved.

Reaume served for two years on the Schoolcraft College board as an appointee and six years on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' Educational Excellence Foundation board, both unpaid positions.

In 2000, he challenged Edwards for the job of treasurer, losing in the Republican primary. "People encouraged me

to run again," he said.

In 2004, he got another chance when then-Supervisor Steve Mann, a former police officer who had earned a law degree, decided not to seek re-election. This time, Reaume won.

He's focused heavily on economic development efforts during his tenure and, with the recession in the rear-view mirror for many, those efforts are paying off.

"That's how you sustain a community. You have to maintain and expand the community," he said.

The recent announcement of plans for the Michigan International Technology Center, a high-tech business corridor along Five Mile, capped those efforts. Reaume said it is a multi-year project.

"It will continue to provide the vitality of new businesses, new jobs," he said.

### 'Class act'

Other accomplishments during his tenure include:

» Getting the new township hall, police station and Fire Station No. 1 completed. The complex opened in 2006.

» Helping bring the Concours d'Elegance of America, an annual show of hundreds of classic and antique vehicles, to The Inn at St. John's. The show draws hundreds of out-of-town visitors with their vehicles and thousands of attendees.

» Finishing Ann Arbor Road streetscape improvements, which won an award from Keep Michigan Beautiful.

» Lowering employee legacy costs, cutting expenses during the recession and maintaining the lowest tax rate, at 4 mills, of any Wayne County community.

» Building a new water tower and pumping station, which helped cut wholesale water costs by keeping water usage during peak hours in check.

» Selling off the former township property at Ann Arbor Road and Lilley, which is being redeveloped.

» Adopting "green" practices like tree-planting, the expansion of

hazardous waste collection and the extension of yard waste collection.

During Reaume's time, the township won several municipal accolades, such as being rated the second-safest city (with a population of more than 25,000) in Michigan and the 28th best place to live in the country, and best in the state, by CNN/Money Magazine.

"He's done a great job," Edwards said. "Went out a class act."

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## Student teams put their STEM knowledge to the test at Wayne-Westland Robofest

By Sue Mason  
 Staff Writer

Shirts and ties. Hawaiian shirts and Panama hats. Students came dressed for hopeful success at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's Robofest.

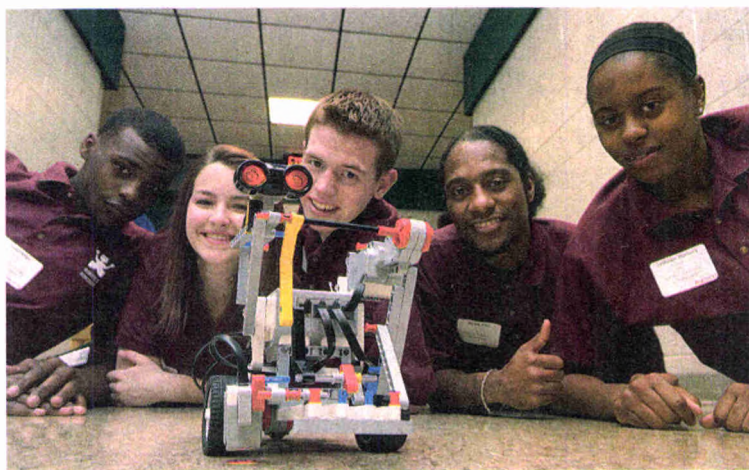
A part of Lawrence Technological University's Robofest 2015, the event pitted small student-created robots against each other for judging on their ability to complete specific tasks. The teams came from Wayne, Westland and Northville and more distant areas like Troy, Walled Lake, Adrian and Commerce.

"It's pretty intense. We're putting some real-world pressure on these students," said Zachary MacLean, electronics/robotics technology at the career technical center. "We did this a few years ago, but the interest is far greater today. I think it's the emphasis on STEM education; the kids finally get it."

Robofest include two segments: the RoboBowl game, in which the programmed autonomous robot had to bowl, shoot or kick a tennis ball to knock down four water bottles; and an exhibition, in which students were judged on their robotic creations. The teams were competing to advance to the state competition with hopes of making it to the world competition in May at LTU.

Placing first in RoboBowl was the Troy High IMC & Robotics team, with John Glenn High School's Robotic Rockets second. Also moving on to the state contest were Wayne Memorial High School's Robotic Zebra, the William D. Ford's Robotic Techs, Northville's NCA Lights and the Washington Tyshka/Propson Homeschool's Fearsome Five.

Exhibition teams advancing included 7 of 9 Robotech from William D. Ford, Perpetual Motion Squad, two Lenewee ISD Alternative Energy and Robotics teams and Adrian Toast Hat. First place went to N/A, LISD Alternative Energy



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The William Ford Career Technical Center team included Lavail Nolan, Brooke Jennings, Conner Weber, Wes Erby and Lashaun Marbury.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lashaun Marbury, Wes Erby and Lavail Nolan reprogram their robot to perform a new task assigned by the Robofest organizers.

and Robotics, with Beta, another LISD Alternative Energy and Robotics team, placing second.

### 'Unknown problem'

Teams displayed their robots along the walls of the center's commons area for exhibition judging. Two tables were the center of attention for two rounds of RoboBowl, in which the small robots competed against each other to complete a task.

Students were told the task and given a half-hour to program their robots. They couldn't use their cellphones or

communicate with coaches. Once the half-hour was up, the robots were impounded until the competition.

"We give them an unknown problem and they have to solve it and program their robots," MacLean said. "Everything is based on math. We may give them D or C and they have to figure out the problem. If they do the math correctly, the whole thing works."

Stephanie Bigelow, coach of the Robotic Zebra team, was impressed with how their ro-

bot did in the first round. Students Tyler Chad and Jared Ketcherside programmed the robot to make several turns to line up and roll a tennis ball at the bottles. While the ball wasn't strong enough to knock over the bottles, it did move several.

"Their program was good, but they knew going in that they need another motor," Bigelow said. "If the arm had a little more spring, it would be better."

Terry Ratliff and Raymond Uresti of the LISD Technical Center in Adrian chose the tropical theme for the exhibition competition. They wore Hawaiian print shirts and Panama hats and also strummed a guitar and a ukulele.

"We're hoping to get the wow factor and the judge's attention," Ratliff said. "We're very uptight and nervous, but we want to be different, laid-back. We're the only team like this. The most we can get for a grade is 10 percent for appearance."

### Making it work

Across the room, the 7 of 9 team attracted attention with a life-size robot that moves back and forth and moves its shoulders and arms. The eyes even light up.

"We had so many problems with the program last year, so we couldn't make it autonomous," Kealani Sypher said. "We had to rush to build it and got the wires crossed. We did a lot more work on it this year."

Sypher said the problems were "manufacturer defects" and that students had to make their own parts. The work this year fixed the arms. Helping were Miguel Calvarro and Dannette Miller.

Impressed with how well her teams did, Bigelow gives all the credit to the students.

"I did nothing. This is student driven, they've done all of the work," she said. "They get full credit."

## Education foundation dinner, auction coming up

Wine-tasting, a strolling dinner and silent and live auctions will be on the menu for the annual benefit for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' Educational Excellence Foundation.

The wine-tasting and dinner and auctions are 7-11 p.m. Friday, April 17, at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center. A silent auction is also online now at [www.pccseef.com](http://www.pccseef.com).

The EEF is a nonprofit that raises money for classroom enhancements and other support for district schools. The benefit, now in its fifth year, has raised more than \$125,000 toward those goals.

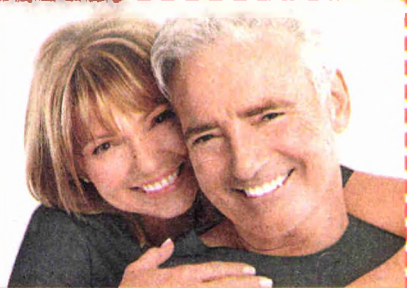
The Fox Hills event is the EEF's biggest fundraiser of the year. Usually attended by more than 600 people, the event offers valet parking, 15 tables of wines, three tables of craft beers and food from 15 providers.

The auction features hundreds of goods, services, restaurant meals and package deals. The online auction closes at 10 p.m. Monday.

Tickets to the live event are \$50 a person and available at Busch's Fresh Food Market in Plymouth Township, the Showroom of Elegance in Canton Township, through the foundation website and at the EEF office in the school district's administration building, 454 S. Harvey, in Plymouth.

For more information, email EEF executive director Carole Kody at [Carole.Kody@pccsk12.com](mailto:Carole.Kody@pccsk12.com) or call the EEF office at 734-416-2718.

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# 'Real joy and hope': Pastors share Easter message

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Holy Week and Easter are busy for Christian clergy, but they're happy to take a few minutes to talk about the message of Jesus' Resurrection and its relevance today.

"The key message of Holy Week is Christ died for the sins of the world and was raised so that we may have eternal life," said the Rev. Paul Schaefer, who's served more than 20 years as pastor at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Plymouth.

"Yes, I still believe it's relevant. We all will face our death and the judgment before the Lord," said Schaefer, a Plymouth resident whose congregation is almost 160 years old.

In his Easter sermons, Schaefer recounts the gospel story of the Resurrection "and then apply it to what it means for them. They're very receptive to that. Oh yes, they very much appreciate it."

Easter Sunday services at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran will see pews packed, but the pastor said, "All are welcome and we love to share with anyone the good news of Jesus crucified and risen."

Schaefer agreed Holy Week and Easter are busy for pastors yet still rewarding: "You get to remind people of the real joy and hope they can have through faith in Christ. Very encouraging

to see the joy Easter brings to people. I can comfort them through God's word."

## 'Longs for us to know him'

The Rev. John Grenfell III is going into his ninth year as senior pastor at Plymouth First United Methodist Church, which has been in the community about 175 years. "That the author of life and creator of our universe" whose birth we celebrate at Christmas "is also the one who gave us reason to celebrate Easter. He longs for us to know him and have a personal relationship with him," Grenfell said.

"Death does not have the final word," he added. "Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ does." That gift of eternal life "is a gift that is intended to be experienced forever."

Wednesday morning, Plymouth resident Grenfell was working on his Easter sermon, "Why Are You Looking for the Living Among the Dead?" He joked a bit about busy times Holy Week and Easter at his church.

"It would be nice on Wednesday if that were done," he said of his sermon being underway. "We've got a lot going on."

Grenfell described the "cheap counterfeits" of life that have people search in vain for truth. He said Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, lived on the planet 33 years



Worshippers and passers-by see this cross during Holy Week at the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth.

JULIE BROWN

and was crucified.

"We ought to pay close attention to what he says. He told us he would rise from the dead and he did." Plymouth First United Methodist worshippers share that they experience "the presence of the Risen Lord in our midst."

Grenfell welcomes

newcomers to church "every Sunday and every day in between. We're a very busy church."

He explained the English translation in the New Testament of Jesus as originating from Joshua, with a meaning of "God to the rescue, the Lord is salvation."

They worship each

Sunday at 10:10 a.m. to allow "womb to tomb" Sunday school beforehand.

Also welcoming worshippers Easter Sunday is the Rev. Ron Richards, pastor of St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton. "I think it's probably more relevant today than it was 2,000 years ago," Richards, a Canton resident, said of the Easter message. "We exist on this Earth to be with him in heaven."

At St. John Neumann parish, "We share it all the time throughout the year," Richards said of the Easter message, helping people develop a relationship with Christ to do his work. "We should express his love with the rest of the world, loving people for who they are, not who we want them to be," said Richards, who is also a canon lawyer serving the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Easter Masses at St. John Neumann draw more worshippers: "You really want to tailor that message to them as well and make them feel welcome," said Richards, who's been at the Canton church almost five years.

Jesus' teachings are challenging, he said, focusing on being better than we are. "It doesn't mean we can't be better," he said, adding of his parish members, "I think they're very receptive and open" to the Easter message.

"It's a beautiful time of year," Richards said. "Things only feel hard if

you're doing them because you have to. It's an opportunity to reach out to people. It's the best time of year the church has."

## 'Greatest story'

Rocky Barra, lead pastor at Connection Church in Canton, is also grateful to share Easter's message. "We get to tell the greatest story in the history of mankind to the largest crowd we'll have all year. It's incredibly rewarding! This is the most important date on the Christian calendar," Barra wrote in an email.

"The message is absolutely as relevant as it was 2,000 years ago. It's not possible to intellectually refute the resurrection of Jesus. It's the most documented fact in all of antiquity," Barra wrote. "It is 'The Greatest Event in the History of the World.' It's not just relevant, there's an excitement in telling the story."

Worshippers at Connection Church, where Barra's been the lead pastor for 26 years, appreciate the Easter message. "Our congregation is very receptive to the message - both our regular attenders and our guests. We endeavor to share it in a little different way every year, with creativity and with excellence," Barra wrote, adding this Sunday's presentation is "The Colors of Grace."

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

## Canton Historical Society is seeking help with a fundraiser

Looking for a way to help out the Canton community, but can't make a huge time commitment?

The Canton Historical Society has announced a way to help.

The CHS is accepting donations for a tent sale set for Saturday, June 20, during the Canton Liberty Fest. The items should be antique, craft-related or vintage-in-

spired.

Donations the historical society currently has include jewelry, books, handmade fabric tree decorations, vintage hats and an antique table.

All donations will be sold at the tent sale as a fundraiser for the Canton Historical Museum. All profits will be used for future Canton Historical Museum exhibits,

investment in archival storage boxes/paper and further efforts of community outreach events.

If interested in donating, contact Jordan Taylor at jordanta@um-

ich.edu or call 397-0088. The deadline for donations is June 10.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Who runs faster, kids or moms? It looks like a dead heat as the youngest marshmallow hunters head out.

# Marshmallow Drop ushers in Easter holiday in Wayne County



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

If marshmallows dropped from a helicopter drop just a little too fast and hard, Cain Ortiz is ready. He is from Flat Rock.

Hunting season was canceled for marshmallow droppers who ventured out Friday morning to Elizabeth Park in Trenton, but the sun was shining and the weather pleasant by the time the Easter Bunny's helicopter took to the air at 11 a.m. for a visit to the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland.

The cancellation of the Downriver event due to dense fog may have been a first in the 31-year history of the Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop, where thousands of youngsters scramble to retrieve marshmallows dropped from a helicopter and turn them in for prizes.

Youngsters who made it to Elizabeth Park didn't leave disappointed. While there was no shower of marshmallows, there were prizes for each child.

At Nankin Mills, 20,000 marshmallows were dropped during three trips over the Nankin Mills picnic area, where youngsters were

divided into three age groups - 4 years and younger, 5-7 years old and 8-12 years old. While only one marshmallow was needed to claim a prize, kids scrambled to get as many as they could. One lucky child in each age group walked away with an extra special prize after finding a colored marshmallow.

The annual Marshmallow Drop is co-sponsored by Trenton Parks and Recreation, ITC Holdings, Taylor Ford, Flagstar Bank, Zeal Credit Union, KSP Insurance, UAW Region 1A, N Zone Sports, Jack Demmer Ford, Wayne County Community College, Fox 2 News, Observer & Eccentric Media and Friends of Wayne County Parks.

For more photos, see our photo gallery at hometownlife.com.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The helicopter drops the load of marshmallows, which hit the ground and join the goose poop nestled in the grass.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The rush for marshmallows begins and ends in a few short minutes.

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- 2. PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING ORDINANCE REVISION OF:**
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  2. RT-1, TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (SEC. 78-53)
  3. SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS AND FOOTNOTES (SEC. 78-190 AND 191)
  4. PLANT MATERIALS AND LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS (SEC. 78-203)

All interested persons are invited to attend.

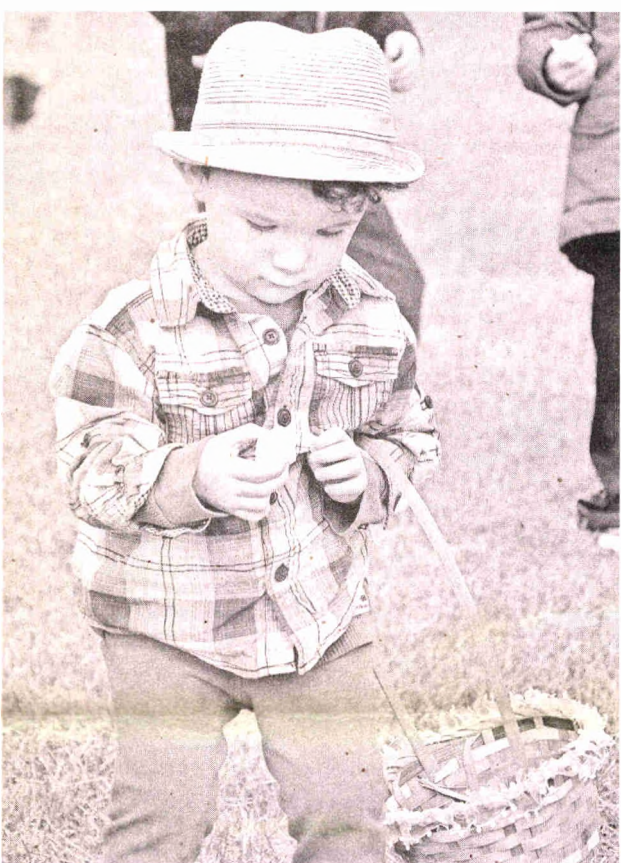
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY REASONABLE AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES, SUCH AS SIGNERS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED AND AUDIOTAPES OF PRINTED MATERIALS BEING CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING/HEARING, TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. REQUESTS FOR AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES MAY BE MADE BY WRITING OR CALLING THE FOLLOWING:

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(734)453-1234, EXT. 206



Bunny patrol: A second set of 3-year-old twins, Miriam and Nabil Timmerman of Canton Township, came to the event with parents Brian and Pam Timmerman.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



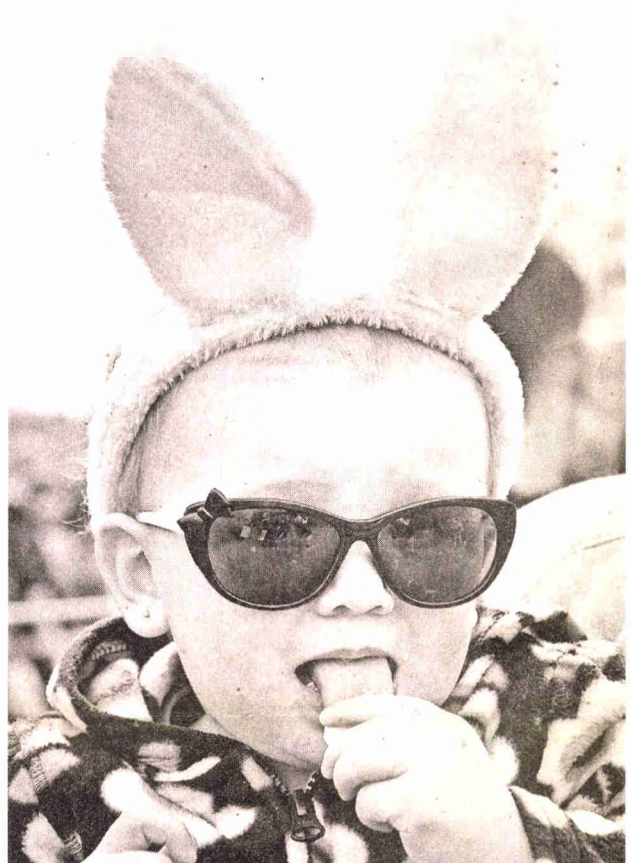
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two-year-old Rocco Boone Koch Gregory finds a marshmallow on the ground. If mom Amanda Koch Gregory is fast enough, she'll stop him from shoving it in his mouth. Rocco and Amanda are from Dearborn Heights.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bunny patrol: Three-year-old identical twins Taiya and Taliya Nelson came for the fun with grandmother Sandra Colquiti and uncle D'ante Harden-Johnson. They are from Inkster.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bunny patrol: Eighteen-month-old Avery Miller samples a marshmallow. Avery and mom and dad Megan and Nathan Miller are from Livonia.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Older kids don't need their moms to hold their hands - they just outrun them.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Julia Lutz, a volunteer from Stevenson High School in Livonia, works to hold back the 3- and 4-year-olds.

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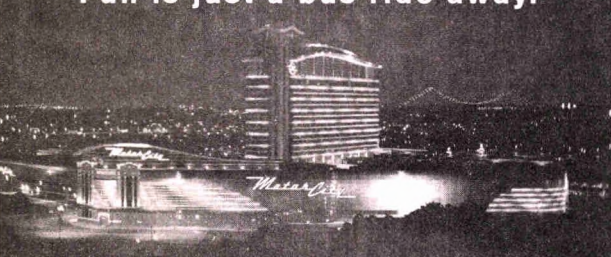
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The doctor will begin by establishing how much this pain diminishes the patient's ability to exercise and interferes with his or her way of life. Then the doctor will question and examine the patient with the intent of establishing a diagnosis. The possible causes for the pain include the patient's concern of phlebitis, a ruptured baker's cyst, osteoarthritis, sciatica and strained calf muscles.

Learning from the patient the pattern of the pain, examining the legs for swelling, moving the legs and the lower extremity muscles to elicit pain, and possibly taking x-rays of the knees or ankles, provides the diagnosis.

In this instance, the patient is experiencing muscle strain.


Then the doctor can answer the question of what the person can or cannot do. The physician will start the discussion by noting that the adage: "No pain no gain," is wrong. If the patient engages in an exercise or activity that causes the calves to hurt, the patient should stop that activity. "No pain, no gain" is only appropriate for normal muscles one is trying to strengthen.

Then the doctor informs the patient that resolution of the pain may take months. Healing requires rest but daily life necessitates movement.

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# Nurse looks back at special relationship with patient

By Terry Jacoby  
Correspondent

In July 2004, Leona Ashley gave birth to Abigail at what is now Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids. But soon the joy of a baby girl turned into concern and then fear for her newborn's life.

The doctor told Leona and her husband Scott that there was "something on Abigail's arm" moments after the delivery. And nine days later, that something turned out to be a tumor called infantile fibrous sarcoma.

Before getting the devastating news, Abigail was transferred to the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor.

"They ran all kinds of tests, CAT scans and MRIs to discover if the tumor was cancerous," Ashley said. "She was sedated to help her deal with any pain she might be having and was hooked up to all sorts of machines."

After three days at U-M, Ashley mentioned to a nurse that she hadn't yet held her baby. That nurse was Joan Vary of Canton.

"Joan said, 'You mean you have not held her yet?'" Ashley said. "She took me right in and I held my daughter on a pillow with all those tubes."



Cancer survivor Abigail Ashley recently reunited with Joan Vary, the nurse who took care of her right after she was born.

## Special bond

Vary spent most of her 40-year nursing career in pediatrics, including the last 23 years in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at U-M. She's seen more sick kids than she can remember during her years in Ann Arbor, but she will never forget Abigail – and Abigail and her family will never forget her.

"She and I were bonded in an amazing way," said Vary, 72. "I truly believe that God brought us together for many reasons, for which I am truly grateful. It is hard for me to find the right words to express my relationship with her and how much she meant and

still means to me."

At 10 days old, Abigail had her arm amputated after doctors explained it was the best option to save her life. The cancer has not returned 10 years later.

"It was heartbreaking to know her arm had to be amputated," Vary said. "But we knew it was necessary to save her life. Through the days and weeks I cared for her, I loved her more and more. So many babies I cared for were special, but she was one of a few that were at the top of my list."

Vary retired in 2006. In 2013, she was diagnosed with endometrial (uterine carcinoma) and had surgery and radia-

tion treatments the following year. "I am in post-treatment and have one more year to go before I can officially be called a 'survivor,' but I am optimistic," she said. "Abigail and I owe our lives to the exceptional care we received at the University of Michigan Hospital."

## Reunion

The two cancer survivors were reunited again last week, when Leona and Abigail Ashley visited their favorite nurse in Canton.

"We live in Ludington, but we have stayed in touch with Joan throughout the years," Leona Ashley said. "We send emails, chat on Facebook

and talk on the phone. We've only seen her a couple times, so it's nice to see her again."

Abigail, who called Joan "amazing" and "very nice," was glad to see her friend. And Vary was glad to see her.

"It's so nice to see her and how much she's grown," an emotional Vary said. "She's so adorable. And the whole family is wonderful. My life is full."

Vary, who raised her own family and lived in Canton for 30 years, sees Abigail as an example of the impact she made during her four-plus decades in nursing.

"Truly the neonatal unit is a place of agony and ecstasy," Vary said. "While some died, there are so many miracles I was able to witness, often on a daily basis. The NICU is a place filled with amazing technology and resources and caring people who work so hard every day for these little babies and their families."

One of those babies was Abigail.

"I truly hope and pray that I have made a positive difference in Abigail's life, as much as she has made in mine," said Vary, who graduated from U-M in 1966 with a nursing degree.

"Joan was amazing," Ashley said. "At one point, I asked another nurse why Joan was always there with Abi-

gail. She never seemed to leave. The nurse told me that it was because Joan had fallen in love with our little girl. She was switching shifts with others to be at work. It was a relief to know that our baby had someone that truly cared for her."

## 'We are fortunate'

Today, a lot of people care for and love Abigail.

"We are fortunate to have a very lively young lady who has been an inspiration to a lot of people," said Ashley, who in 2009 wrote a book about Abigail titled *I am a Vivor*.

"Our oldest daughter, Alaina (13), won first place in a school essay contest," she said. "The topic was 'My Michigan Hero' and she chose to write about Abigail. Our other daughter, Grace (9), just finished a book for the PBS Authors and Illustrators contest called *Abigail the Brave*."

Vary has a plaque inside her Canton home that reads: "Some people come into our lives and quietly go. Others stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never the same."

Abigail certainly left a footprint on Vary's caring and loving heart.

"To this day, she remains a part of my heart and soul," she said.

# Wife of slain soccer referee files \$51 million lawsuit

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

The wife of a slain Westland referee has filed a \$51 million lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court against the man who went to prison in her husband's death, as well as the soccer league and team he played for.

A lawsuit was filed Friday morning listing Kristen Bieniewicz as the plaintiff. Listed as defendants are: Bassel Saad, the man who struck her husband, John Bieniewicz, during a soccer match he was officiating last June; the Bintlbeil Stars Football Club, the team Saad played for;

Jamal Alsaghir, the owner and operator of the Stars Football Club; and Michigan United Soccer League, the league the team played in.

The suit asks for \$51 million, \$1 million for each year John Bieniewicz was expected to live, according to a doctor's estimate, said James Aho, the Livonia attorney representing Kristen Bieniewicz.

"Plaintiff's decedent, John C. Bieniewicz, was in extraordinary physical condition, approximately 6'4", 185 pounds, with very little body fat, having run close to 30 miles a week while refereeing soccer, for the last 20 years," the court complaint reads. "In addition,



Kristen Bieniewicz, the wife of slain referee John Bieniewicz, holds up a red card at the sentencing of Bassel Saad, the man who struck and killed her husband during a soccer match last June in Livonia. She has since filed a civil lawsuit against Saad, the soccer team he was playing on and the league it participated in.

Plaintiff Bieniewicz adhered to a strict dietary regimen, and was the epitome of perfect physical condition for a 44-year-old male."

John Bieniewicz was in the process of pulling out a red card during the match Saad was playing in last June at Livonia's Mies Park when Saad struck him, several witnesses testified to during court hearings. That blow led to Bieniewicz being declared dead two days later.

A message was left for Brian Berry, one of the attorneys who represented Saad during his criminal proceedings, Friday morning seeking comment. An official who answered the phone at

the Michigan United Soccer League's office in Royal Oak referred comments to president Rick Cook. A message was left for Cook seeking comment Friday morning.

The complaint alleges the soccer league did not have adequate screening in place for its players. Saad faced some charges after striking another soccer player during a match in Canton in 2005.

That background, Aho said, should have been known before Saad was able to suit up and play.

"The team absolutely knew Saad had a propensity for violence. He had been charged criminally for it in the same league years before," Aho said.

"The league should have known had they had an adequate screening process in place."

Saad is locked up within the Michigan Department of Corrections system after taking a plea deal last month. While originally charged with second-degree murder, Saad pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and is serving 8-15 years in prison.

A status conference in the lawsuit is scheduled to take place at 8 a.m. July 6 before Circuit Judge Kathleen Macdonald, according to online court records.

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## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### TO VACCINATE OR NOT

**Time/date:** 7-8:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 8

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

**Details:** Hear speakers on both sides of the issue and get your questions answered. Mary Greiner, D.O., family practice from Ann Arbor, and Omkar Karthikeyan, M.D., of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital pediatrics, will discuss vaccinations and answer questions.

### HOSPICE SUPPORT

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

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

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

**Contact:** For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement coordinator, at 888-983-9050 or email achristsen@cch.net.

### BRAIN NEUROBICS

**Date/Time:** Second and fourth Thursdays through May 2015, 11 a.m.

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

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

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

### PAGAN HOURS

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

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

**Details:** State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, announces the schedule for her monthly coffee hours. Pagan invites residents to join her to discuss their thoughts and ideas about how she can best represent and address the needs of her constituents. Pagan encourages interested residents to sign up for her e-newsletter, which will provide updates of her work at

the Capitol and in the community.

**Contact:** To sign up, interested individuals should go to pagan.houseofdemocrats.com. Residents can also contact Pagan in her Lansing office at 517-373-2575.

### PFLAG MEETING

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

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

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

**Contact:** Email laurie.mayers@gmail.com

### DROP-IN KNITTING

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

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

**Details:** The Plymouth Community Council on Aging offers drop-in knitting and crocheting classes. If you need help fin-

ishing a project or starting a new project, then this is the place to come. Beginners are welcome. Each class has a donation of \$2. Instructor is Dori Mefford.

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

### CRAFTERS WANTED

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

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

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

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

### COACHES NEEDED

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

**Location:** Bilkie Family Field, downtown Plymouth

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

**Contact:** Anyone interested in

donating their time or who has questions can contact Shari Bilkie via email at shari@miracleleagueplymouth.org

### CLOTHING BANK

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

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

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

**Contact:** For more information, email info@cantoncf.org or call 734-404-2480.

### PLAYERS WANTED

**Time/date:** Throughout the week.

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

**Details:** Senior citizens play cards and mahjong throughout the week at the Friendship Station. Euchre is played Monday and Wednesday, pinoche Tuesday and Friday and mahjong Monday. Membership is available to all.

**Contact:** For more information, call the Plymouth Township Seniors president at 734-455-0676 or the vice president at 734-451-2660.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

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

Thursday, April 16th, 2015 at 7:30 pm

VEHICLE(S):

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	STYLE	VIN	CASE #
2002	SATURN		4D	1G8JW54R82Y539943	15-371
2002	CHEVROLET	EXPRESS VAN	VA	1GCGG25R921148951	14-7444

INQUIRIES REGARDING THESE VEHICLES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO OFFICER MILLER, CITY OF PLYMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT, AT 734 453-1234 x543.

Publish: April 5, 2015

LINDA J. LANGMESSER  
10-00029722 3x2 5

## PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPT.

734 354-3232

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on 04/10/2015, at 10:00 am, Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170, a public auction of the following:

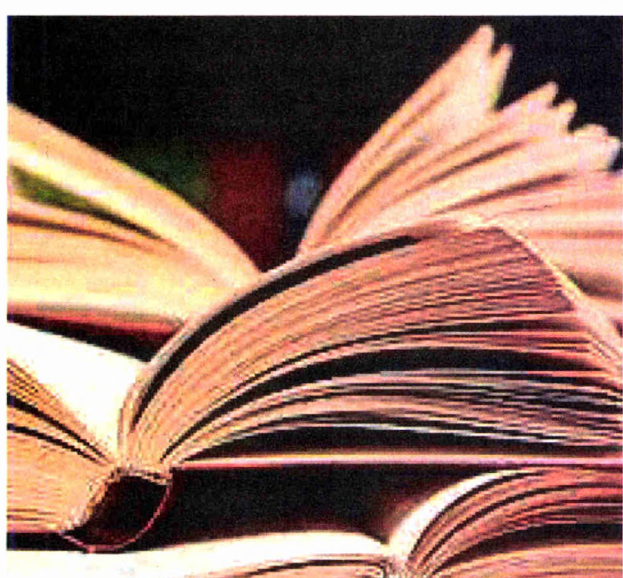
	Starting Bid
2004 GMC Savana	1 GTGG25V041228249 \$1205.00
2005 Nissan Altima	1N4BL11D85C117909 1345.00
2000 Ford Focus	1 FAHP3830YW274781 800.00
2000 Ford Taurus	1FAFP5823YA261448 1230.00
1993 Chevrolet Lumina	G1VVL54T5P1115042 520.00

Publish: April 5, 2015

10-00029805 3x2



# Library reveals new chapter in Canton Book Project



FILE PHOTO

Canton's library is giving away nearly 100 books to spur reading.

Book lovers from the Canton area will gather at the Canton Public Library to celebrate their love of reading and to receive free copies of their favorite books to distribute in the community, in a move intended to spur interest in reading.

Nearly 100 books will be distributed by people ages 14-70 who, in turn, will give them away to others. They were chosen as part of the inaugural Canton Book Project.

State Librarian Randy Riley and Canton library trustees are expected to attend the distribution and reception at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the Canton Public Library,

1200 S. Canton Center. The public is invited.

The event coincides with National Library Week.

Eight people have been selected to share their love of reading with the Canton community by giving away copies of a favorite book. The book titles and recipients are:

» *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson, selected by Amanda Davies and Plymouth High School American Literature students.

» *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander, chosen by Beth Shaum.

» *Easter Ann Peters: Operation Cool* by Jody Lamb, selected by Sarah

Perry.

» *H.I.V.E.: The Higher Institute of Villainous Education* by Mark Walden, selected by Ryen O'Meara.

» *Natchez Burning* by Greg Iles, chosen by Joan Noricks.

» *The Orphan Train* by Christine Kline, chosen by Connie Slazinski.

» *Slathbog's Gold* by M. L. Foreman, selected by Zarin Loosli.

» *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson, selected by Montgomery Jones.

The Canton Book Project is intended to create a community of readers by distributing well-loved books to others in the community.

It's a chance for book lovers to share their love of reading by giving out their favorite books to a recipient who, for whatever reason, doesn't read for pleasure or own books.

Library officials say they hope the books will inspire more reading and help to create an engaged, informed community.

The Canton Public Library, an award-winning member of the Library Network and Metro Net, was identified by citizens on a survey as the best-loved facility in Canton. It averages 4,000 patron visits daily and circulates over 1.6 million items annually.

# State senator touts Proposal 1 as 'product of compromise'

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

State Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood, D-Taylor, acknowledges that Proposal 1, set for a May 5 vote, isn't perfect.

"It's a product of compromise," Hopgood told Westland Rotary members and guests April 2. "It wasn't my first choice." If not approved by voters, he said, "then I don't think we're going to fix the roads well and certainly not soon."

Hopgood noted it took a "really visual crisis" to put the roads issue in the forefront. "Raising taxes is always a little more difficult," he said, also agreeing enforcement of truck weight limits is an issue.

If approved, Proposal 1 would increase sales/use tax to 7 percent, as authorized by constitutional amendment. It would also:

- » Eliminate sales/use taxes on gasoline/diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads.
- » Increase portion of

use tax dedicated to the School Aid Fund.

"Every year we delay is a year lost," he said of road repairs.

Challenged by a Rotarian on legislators passing the roads issue to voters, Hopgood said, "I think it's a promise. I'm not into threatening people."

### 'Can work together'

Hopgood, 40, a Taylor resident, said of Republican dominance in Lansing, "Some of the big philosophical things have been a challenge." The support of Gov. Rick Snyder and Republican legislators for career-technical education is common ground for Hopgood, who cited Wayne-Westland's William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

"It's a real example of where we can work together," he said. "I don't want that to prevent me from moving good public policy forward."

Energy use is also an issue for Michiganders, he said. "To figure out how to meet the needs of

the state of Michigan can be a challenge."

Coal is brought here from Appalachia. "Coal isn't necessarily the cleanest way to produce electricity," he said.

Federal rules on emissions also mean some smaller, older coal-based power plants will close. Hopgood noted natural gas is volatile in price, adding he hopes Snyder pushes for stronger energy policies.

### 'Tip my hat'

Hopgood also touched on education and school funding. "I tip my hat to you for doing things in the community and trying to make a difference," he said, referencing Rotary literacy efforts as well as Snyder's third-grade reading initiative.

Wayne-Westland as a district has been challenged under Proposal A, he said. He reiterated the need for skilled workers. "We can get skills to our young people and they can go out and be more readily employable."

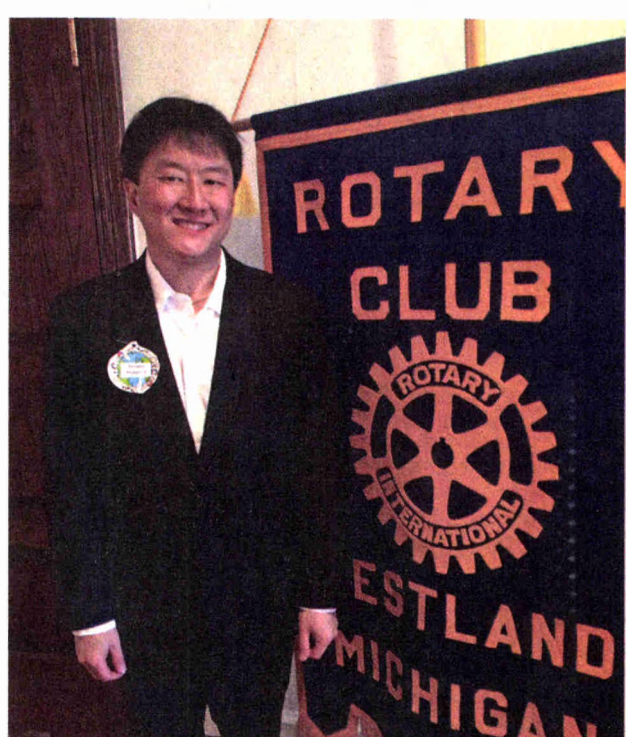
Hopgood, a married father of two, was born in Korea and moved here when adopted as a toddler. He's a 1996 graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in political science, and is pursuing a master's degree in public policy through Northern Michigan University.

His district, newly drawn in 2014, now includes Westland, Van Buren Township, Belleville, Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Huron Township, Rockwood, Romulus, Sumpter Township and Taylor.

He served three terms in the Michigan House of Representatives before moving to the Senate, where he's a lame duck.

Of Rotary Clubs, the legislator said, "I think that they're a great piece of the community. I really enjoy visiting them."

His dad was active in politics, and Hopgood got his start as a legislative aide in Lansing for his state representative, later running for and winning that seat.



JULIE BROWN

Of Rotary clubs, including Westland, state Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood, D-Taylor, said, "I think that they're a great piece of the community. I really enjoy visiting them."

"Spending time in Westland is very important," he said of his new, large community to represent.

He's been to Cooper Upper Elementary and Schweitzer Elementary for visits.

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# Focus on investment return, not just tax liability

**Q: Dear Rick: How can I avoid a relatively large tax bill and still take advantage of my taxable mutual fund investment? Until 2012, I did our taxes and I usually received refunds between \$500 and \$1,000. Most of the tax account was CDs, which resulted in low interest payments. In 2013, the taxable account was moved to various Fidelity mutual funds covering stocks and bonds. Since then, I have paid taxes to the IRS: \$1,550 in 2012, \$1,140 in 2013 and \$1,925 in 2014, based on dividends, short-term and long-term capital gains. If I move the investments into a low-expense index fund, it may re-**



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

**duce the tax liabilities since the index funds are relatively stable. Does this make financial sense?**

**A:** Your focus is on the wrong spot — what you paid in taxes. Focus on what ends up in your pocket.

Even though you paid more in taxes, your investments made substantially more than they did in the CD. Even after paying the higher taxes, you have more money — exactly how it should be.

At many of my seminars, I always ask for a

show of hands for anyone with a main financial goal to lower their taxes. Inevitably, a fair number of people will raise their hand.

I always choose one of these people and ask them why they don't want to win the lottery. Of course, they always respond that they do want to win the lottery. But then I point out that if one of their major financial goals is to lower their taxes and they win the lottery, it would increase them substantially.

I recognize that everyone would want to win the lottery even though it may cost them in taxes. The reason is that when it comes to the lottery, people will focus on what

ends up in their pocket. Unfortunately, they don't do that with their investments, which is a mistake.

Index funds may not reduce your tax liability. After all, index funds make capital gain distributions. They also have dividends and, in the case of bond funds, interest.

One alternative to consider is tax-managed funds, where portfolio managers run them and implement certain strategies to offset gains and losses. Vanguard has a number of tax-managed funds to consider. The beauty of these funds is they are tax sufficient and make good economic sense. Another great thing about Vanguard

Funds is that they are low-cost and commission-free.

Tax considerations are important, but they're not the most important thing. After all, particularly when it comes to investments, we're talking about capital gain taxes and for most people that's 20 percent or below. Therefore, when people are focusing on taxes, they're focusing on the 20 percent, not the 80 percent.

Our tax laws are complex and, unfortunately, getting more so. Over the last 10 years, we've had more than one tax law change a day. Therefore, for the great majority of people, what you think you know about taxes is generally wrong.

In addition, the majority of investments — such as annuities — are sold with the idea that they have great tax breaks and that is wrong. In fact, in many situations like annuities, they don't lower your taxes, they actually raise them. More importantly, they don't put more money in your pocket.

When it comes to investments, be smart with taxes, but don't let the tax tail wag the dog. Focus on what ends up in your pocket after taxes.

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.*



Regnier Surowiec Green Haines Panneman Haines Sincok

# Detroit Metro Airport Ambassadors earn service awards

Sixty-three Airport Ambassadors at Detroit Metropolitan Airport were honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award at a banquet luncheon held at DTW's Westin Hotel.

With more than 500 hours served, Sam Gemus of Riverview, Diana Surowiec of Redford, William Bialkowski of Dearborn and Sharon Kelly of Trenton received the prestigious gold pin, along with Shuta Suzuki of Novi from

the youth category. The President of the United States issues the award every year to volunteers to thank and honor Americans for their volunteer service.

"There is no question that the helpful and friendly service provided by our volunteer Airport Ambassadors increases overall customer satisfaction at Detroit Metropolitan Airport," Airport Authority CEO Tom Naughton said. "To have five of our volunteers

earning a gold pin from the President is outstanding."

In 2014, DTW Airport Ambassadors answered nearly 340,000 questions at six locations throughout the airport in both terminals. Ambassadors can be identified by their blue vests assisting travelers or helping connect lost and stranded passengers with their families.

Winners were presented with a bronze, silver or gold pin correspond-

ing with the level of service reached in 2014, along with a certificate and letter from President Barack Obama at an awards luncheon held at the Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

"A change is brought about because ordinary people do extraordinary things," President Obama said.

Silver Volunteer 2014 Presidential Service Awardees went to Joe Scafero of Livonia, 490.25 hours; Daniel

Packer of Livonia, 400.50 hours; Carla Chupac of Livonia, 345.00 hours; Traci Sincok of Plymouth, 332.25 hours; Donald Green of Plymouth, 286.50 hours; Roy Brown of Redford, 272.00 hours, and Ruth Bumar of Redford, 255.25 hours.

At the Bronze Level were Cheryl Regnier of Canton, 227.50 hours; Mary Pannemann of Canton, 225.25 hours; Flora Murray of Livonia, 217.50 hours, and Lonnie Haines of Canton, 145.75.

The President's Volunteer Service Awards were established in 2003, and are officially issued by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

To learn more about the Detroit Metropolitan Airport Ambassador program, visit [www.metroairport.com/volunteer](http://www.metroairport.com/volunteer). To learn more about how to qualify for the President's Volunteer Service Award, visit [www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov](http://www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov) or call 866-545-5307.

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# SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR  
 TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM  
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SOFTBALL PREVIEW - PART 2

## PRIMED TO PROWL

Wildcats look to make waves with talent, tenacity, bounce-back attitude

By Tim Smith  
 Staff Writer

Lauren Delapaz is only one game into her tenure as head coach of Plymouth's varsity softball team. But if Wednesday's opening win is any indicator she could be about to preside over a special season.

With a mix of outstanding veterans and freshmen who play as though they were juniors or seniors, the Wildcats already are off and running thanks to a 7-3 victory over South Lyon East.

"We're very blessed to have the ninth-grade class that we do, we know they're all going to be very big contributors," Delapaz said. "But we're really impressed with the junior and senior leadership we've had thus far this season."

"I really believe it's their attitude and their mentality that has helped (younger players) overcome nerves and be prepared for today's game."

Winning the game with a three-run homer was one of those promising freshmen, shortstop Whitney Holden. Another ninth-grader, outfielder/pitcher Jenny Bressler contributed a double and scored a run.

Plymouth had let a 3-0 lead get away, but showed resilience by tallying four runs in the top of the seventh.

### Winning blueprint

Delapaz said that could become a blueprint for the Wildcats as they look to improve upon a 19-10 record in 2014 (13-2 in the KLAA South Division under former head coach Bev McManus).

See PROWL, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO  
 Plymouth senior pitcher Mikayela Marciniak delivers a pitch during a 2014 game. She continues to be one of the Wildcats' prime-time performers.

BASEBALL PREVIEW

## Eagles turning the page

PCA ready to move forward after losing grads Jipping, Lauch

By Tim Smith  
 Staff Writer

The Daniel Jipping era is over at Plymouth Christian Academy and the Eagles also will miss Johnny Lauch.

But the loss of the two 2014 graduates shouldn't sting too much for the 2015 squad, thanks to depth around the diamond and several important returnees.

"Even though we lost two great players from last year's team," stressed PCA varsity baseball coach Joe Bottorff, "we have depth at every position this year and all the guys know that everyone has to contribute this year for us to be successful."

Jipping and Lauch were the Eagles' top offensive performers and pitchers last spring,

See EAGLES, Page B4



FILE PHOTO

One of Plymouth Christian Academy's returnees is senior Michael Slater, one of the team's key pitchers and hitters.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Slapping a tag on a base runner last season is Salem shortstop Maranda Armstead, entering her fourth varsity season.

SOFTBALL PREVIEW - PART 2

## Rocks ready to bust loose

Balanced attack, influx of talent could spearhead winning season

By Tim Smith  
 Staff Writer

This could be the year for the Salem Rocks.

Veteran Salem head softball coach Bonnie Southerland thinks it very well might be, as the 2015 squad features an intriguing mix of veterans and newcomers — namely a handful of promising freshmen.

"We are at least two deep in every position and swinging

the bat better than ever," Southerland said. "I knew we were getting some great freshmen in to complement the past two classes, but I had no idea it would be this good."

"I am so very excited to have so many great student-athletes in one place. ... It's our time, our turn and we are ready and prepared to meet the challenges ahead."

Salem will need to fill Gabbi Zott's shoes in the circle, however. Zott, a 2014 graduate, made the Division 1 all-region team and then pitched in the MHSSCA All-Star Game.

### Armed and ready

Perhaps it will be sophomore pitcher Emily Stewart to take the reins from Zott.

"Emily has increased her speed and looks pretty comfortable out there," said Southerland, adding that Stewart also will play first base when not pitching.

Another sophomore pitcher who Salem will be counting on is Morgan Zach.

"She pitched almost every JV (junior varsity) game last season and will be in the pitching rotation," Southerland

See ROCKS, Page B2

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## Early season showdown



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Vying for a 50/50 ball during Wednesday night's varsity girls soccer matchup are (from left) Canton's Samantha McGrath, Plymouth's Hope Sheffield and Canton's Taylor Topolski. The Wildcats won 1-0 on a goal by Kelsey Melnick in the first of several Park Showdowns this season. Plymouth head coach Jeff Neschich said both teams "played hard and with a lot of emotion." The coach said Megan McCurry and Erin Winters played strong defensively for the Wildcats with Olivia Janke solid on the attack. Earning the shutout was Julia Laflair.

## ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

noted. "Morgan is also available in the outfield. She is one of the hardest workers on the team."

Augmenting Stewart and Zach on the pitching staff will be freshmen Morgan Overaitis, Mad-dy Rosiewicz and Jenna Taylor.

All could have a lot to say about whether the Rocks make a run for the KLAAs Central Division championship (Salem finished second in 2014 with a 8-7 mark but hit the 20-win plateau thanks to tournament success).

"Morgan pitches and plays infield," Southerland said. "Great game smarts and work ethic. Quick, covers a lot of ground and hits them deep. Morgan can beat you on offense or defense."

Rosiewicz also plays second base and "is one of the biggest surprises so far. She continues to develop as a threat on the mound and at second."

As for Taylor, she probably will be dividing pitching assignments between the varsity and JV to get her reps in. But she also has potential to add a lot to the offense. "Jenna has a strong bat and good power."

### Catching on

They will get to throw to junior standout catcher Kara Hutchison, who likely will handle the majority of starts behind the plate "and works great with all the pitchers," Southerland said.

"This year Kara will have her work cut out for her as we are in a



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ripping a line drive during a 2014 contest is Salem's Kara Hutchison. The junior catcher will be instrumental to the 2015 team's fortunes.

good place with five players that can throw strikes," Southerland said. "That's a really good place to be."

Also on hand for innings at catcher as well as infield spots is senior newcomer Lara Pieckacz, a travel softball standout who will play collegiately at Albion.

"Lara also has quick-ness and should help us on the bases," Southerland noted.

Sophomore Mel Anderson is another player who can catch, although she might see time at third base. "Mel has a great bat, great range."

Salem's sparkling frosh class also includes third baseman Makayleigh Silverman and utility player Caroline Miller.

"Makayleigh has great range and accuracy from third, throws a rocket," the coach said.

Miller, meanwhile, is "very versatile" and able to play wherever the Rocks need her.

### Valuable vets

The Rocks aren't just loaded with ninth-graders, either.

Senior shortstop Maranda Armstead is a fourth-year starter and one of the team's top players and leaders.

"Maranda carries a heavy bat and game presence," Southerland said.

Also returning is junior centerfielder Jamie Squires, a D1 all-region selection in 2014.

"Jamie covers the outfield better than anyone we've had in the past few years," Southerland said. "Jamie is quick, aggressive and a great base runner."

Expected to start in right field will be returning sophomore Katie Hiltz who "once

again will dazzle us with her ability to get to those balls that seem impossible to catch."

Junior Abbie Riedel is back and in the mix for the job at second base.

"Abbie really works hard and continues to improve on her infield skills daily," the coach stressed.

Other returnees include junior outfielder Katlyn Stevenson, and sophomore utility player Kristin Mihalic.

"Katlyn's heads-up base running last season was a key role," Southerland said. "... I anticipate Kristin in the lineup daily. She's such a talented player and her quickness is a huge asset."

### Tough sledding

Although Southerland is pumped about this year's squad, she knows the KLAAs Central won't be a cakewalk.

"We've got a pretty tough division this year, much tougher than usual," she stressed. "As always it will come down to the team that can throw strikes. This has been our biggest challenge the past few years."

"I feel confident that we've gotten over that hurdle and will be stronger this season in every aspect of our game."

After opening the season against Wayne Memorial and Ann Arbor Pioneer, the Rocks will go on spring break.

Next on the schedule is an April 15 home twinbill against division rival Northville.

**SALEM 16, WAYNE 1:** The Rocks opened the season Wednesday with a mercy-rule rout of the Zebras. Salem had 15 hits in the three-inning contest, led by Jamie Squires (4-for-4, two homers, four RBI).

Also with two hits each were Morgan Overaitis (including her first varsity homer and two RBI), Maddie Rosiewicz (two doubles, three RBI) and Makayleigh Silverman.

Earning the pitching win was Morgan Zach, who allowed one hit and struck out three.

## GIRLS TENNIS

### Rocks open with win, loss

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

It was a good news-bad news opening week for Salem's varsity girls tennis team.

The Rocks opened the regular season Tuesday with a 8-1 victory over South Lyon East, but things weren't quite as smooth Wednesday as Novi won 7-2.

Salem's singles lineup cruised against the Cougars, led by junior Chelsea Yu's 6-0, 6-0 win over Megan Shaffer at 1 singles.

At 2 singles, sophomore Bianca Ghita came up big (6-1, 6-0) with junior Madison Kulik (6-0, 6-1) and senior Kylie Enright (6-0, 6-0) prevailing in the 3 and 4 matchups, respectively.

Only a Salem forfeit at 4 doubles kept the Rocks from sweeping to the win.

In the afternoon's closest matchup, Salem's 1 doubles tandem of junior Ashley Henderson and Grace Martin won by a 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 score.

Earning a 6-3, 6-2 win at 2 doubles for the Rocks were junior Alyssa Bucciarelli and senior Alayna Schwartz. Similar success at 3 doubles was registered by freshmen Emilee The and Raegan Henderson (6-1, 6-2).

Wrapping up the win at 5 doubles were juniors



COURTESY SALEM ATHLETICS

**Bianca Ghita of Salem returns a volley during Wednesday's varsity girls tennis match.**

Trina Pal and Sarah Martin, victorious by a 6-3, 6-4 tally.

Salem (1-1 overall) encountered a different fate Wednesday against Novi, with the lone wins turned in by Yu (7-5, 6-4 at 1 singles) and Enright (6-4, 6-0 at 4 singles).

**PLYMOUTH TAKES PAIR:** The start of the regular season for Plymouth's varsity girls tennis team was a big success as the Wildcats won 9-0 over Canton and 8-1 over Livonia Franklin.

Victorious both Tuesday against the Chiefs and Wednesday against the Patriots were Plymouth juniors Amber Tseng (2 singles), Swetha Duraiswamy (3 singles) and freshman Kara Hug (4 singles).

At 1 singles, senior Sarah Gamble bested Canton senior Jasmine Najm-Henry 7-5, 6-1. But she dropped a 6-2, 6-0 result to Franklin junior Kendall Payne on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, it was a clean sweep for Plymouth's doubles lineup on both days.

The 1 doubles tandem of seniors Teahn Horton and Emma Mullenax won against Canton and Franklin.

Doing the same for the Wildcats were junior Alyssa Lopez and senior Lauren Conley at 2 doubles, junior Justine Ko and senior Alexa Earls at 3 doubles, freshman Arwa Harawala and sophomore Kriya Shah at 4 doubles and junior Amy Luo and sophomore Ria Mashesh at 5 doubles.

## PROWL

Continued from Page B1

"It shows that we're just a hard-working, determined team and the coaches couldn't be any happier," said Delapaz, whose first-year coaching staff includes Pam Cameron, Dan Bressler, Amanda Bernard, Allison Raylean and Mychael Evans.

Plymouth, of course, features a handful of stellar seniors who will be instrumental in the team's on-field fortunes.

That group begins with lefthanded starting pitcher Mikayela Marciniak and third baseman Brittney Miller, who have committed to play Division I college softball at Oakland University (where another former Plymouth coach, Val Canfield, is an assistant).

Marciniak started and won the opener against the Lions and enjoyed a 3-for-3 day at the plate while Miller brings a power arm and power bat to the middle of the lineup.

Other seniors include utility players Caylin Waters, Alex Rakovitis and catcher-first baseman Rachael Ring.

"We have five seniors on this team and they're all outstanding leaders both on and off the field," said Delapaz, a onetime head softball coach at Livonia Stevenson who was a Canton assistant coach in 2014.

### Prized patrol

Another key player is junior center-fielder Rachel Zerna, who catches everything in sight while also being an offensive catalyst from the leadoff spot.

"She (Zerna) is going to lead a great outfield with Bressler and (freshman) Jes Tucci," Delapaz noted.

She said Bressler will start in right field when she is not pitching and Tucci is set for left field.

Backing them up will be "great role players" in Waters, Rakovitis, junior Sarah Bondy and junior Ashley Piepsney.

Bressler is expected to form a dynamic 1-2 pitching punch with Marciniak, throwing from the right and left side, respectively. "Hopefully it will be the perfect duo," the coach said.

Plymouth's infield defense should help both pitchers out quite a bit. Miller is a standout at the hot corner, while handling the keystone combination will be shortstop Holden and sophomore second baseman Gina Barber.

Starting at first base will be sophomore Mikayla Rose, backed up by Ring when she is not catching.

Meanwhile, junior Cali Jones (who had two hits in the opener) will provide a spark for the offense out of the designated hitter spot. She also can play corner spots when needed.

According to Delapaz, there is no doubt that Holden can hold down the starting shortstop job despite being just a freshman.

"We want her to become her own player here throughout the season," Delapaz said. "In the first game she's proven herself as a competitor. She's definitely stepping into a position and being a leader."

"It's not a position she's played much of in the past, but she's been up to the occasion every day. She's a very mature young lady."

Crushing a few homers the way she did Wednesday won't hurt, either.

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Getting set at third base during a 2014 contest is Plymouth's Brittney Miller. She brings excellent defense and a power bat to the Wildcats' lineup.



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# All-state hockey players dominate area honors

## FIRST TEAM

**Mick Sinclair, F, Stevenson:** The owner of game-changing talent and leadership qualities, the senior center was the catalyst of the Spartans' run to the Division 2 championship game. Sinclair earned second team all-state and first team all-KLAA accolades after racking up nine goals and 14 assists during the regular season.

"Mick was the do-everything guy for Livonia Stevenson," Spartans coach David Mitchell said. "He played and excelled in all situations. He was a four-year team member, the captain and leader of the team."

"He was absolutely an extension of the coaching staff on and off the ice, which is what you want and need from your captain. He had an extremely successful and decorated high school career."

**Noah Willer, F, Salem:** Whenever the Rocks needed a clutch goal in big-time games, Willer came through time and time again. He led Salem's march to the Division 1 quarterfinal, scoring 25 goals and adding 18 assists for 43 points.

The senior forward and assistant captain tallied six points in four tourney games, including a goal and assist against University of Detroit-Jesuit in the quarterfinal at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor.

Willer's strong all-around play earned him all-KLAA honors, as well as D1 all-state honorable mention accolades.

"Noah is a pure goal scorer who uses his body exceptionally well to protect the puck," coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "He led our team in power-play goals each of the last three seasons and (was) a tremendous leader on and off the ice."

The third-year varsity player ended his career fourth all-time in Salem goals.

**Josh Smith, F, Plymouth:** It was another very successful season for Plymouth and the efforts of Smith had a lot to do with that.

Smith netted 13 goals among 24 points in 26 games and the senior captain was a strong plus-16 player for the KLAA South Division champion Wildcats.

He led Plymouth in points, assists, game-winning goals and shots on goal and the forward was honored with selection to the all-KLAA team, as well as earning D1 all-state honorable mention kudos.

"Josh is one of the most complete players I have coached in high school hockey," coach Gerry Vento said. "He's solid in all three zones on the ice. His hard work, determination and team-first mentality is what made him the ultimate captain."

**Austin Bottrell, F, Farm. Unified:** The senior forward set a team record for single-season points with 62. Bottrell

was good at scoring goals and being a playmaker, scoring 34 goals and assisting on 28. He had a hat trick in four games.

Bottrell was the fourth-leading scorer in the rugged OAA Red Division and was named to the Division 1 all-state second team. A three-year varsity player, he will play junior hockey somewhere next season, according to coach Ken Anderson.

"Austin had the best season by a player in our nine years as a team," Anderson said. "Obviously, he excelled offensively, but also was very responsible in our end. We could count on Austin to generate scoring opportunities all year long."

"He has a potent snapshot and knows where to put it. We counted on him in every situation and very rarely did he disappoint. When we needed him, he was there for us."

**Drake Cole, F, Farmington:** The senior forward was a powerful presence on the attack for three years with the Falcons. He was one of the



leading scorers in the OAA and area the past season with 35 goals, 16 assists and 51 points.

Cole, who is looking for a place to play junior hockey next season, had 115 points in three varsity seasons, scoring 68 goals and recording 47 assists. He was named to the Division 3 all-state second team.

"Drake had a great year," coach Bill Newton said. "He was definitely our leader and lived up to all of our expectations. He just got better and better and topped it off with a really nice senior year."

"He was a big part of our (2014) state championship team, too. He'll find somewhere to play at the next level and will do very well."

"Drake is the prototypical forward, what you would call a power forward. He's big and strong and skates very well for a big guy. He can get to places on the ice where he can score goals. He can score beautiful goals and ugly goals. They all count for one."

**Noah Saad, D, Salem:** The 2014-15 Rocks played like they were on a mission and a catalyst for that mind-set was Saad.

The senior captain was a standout in sparking Salem's sweep of top 10 teams Plymouth, Northville and Brighton in the D1 regional, sending the game against the Wildcats to overtime with a booming goal from the point.

Hard-hitting and durable, Saad provided standout leadership qualities. Ossenmacher said the blue liner "played every other shift and logged a tremendous amount of ice time."

Saad, a third-year varsity player, chalked up three goals and 21 assists, making the D1 all-state second team and all-KLAA squad. With those 24 points, he moved up to second place in career scoring by a Salem defenseman.

"Noah plays with a speed and physicality that few high school defensemen can match," Ossenmacher said. "He has been a consistent performer for us each of the last three seasons."

**Alec Allen, D, Stevenson:** Allen's motor was always running in first gear for the Spartans, who fed off his relentless work ethic. A two-way threat, Allen tallied two goals and 16 assists while earning first team all-state and first team all-KLAA honors.

"Alec is a player who thrives on competition and has a strong desire to improve," Mitchell said. "Alec only knows one way to play the game and that is to go as hard as he can. Whether a game or practice, Alec's approach was always the same, which is needed to become the type of player he has become. Alec played and excelled in all situations and will be very exciting to see how his career progresses in future years."

**Cullen Barber, G, Stevenson:** Barber's spectacular season was rewarded when he was presented with practically every postseason award available, including a berth as the starting goalie on the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association's Dream Team and the state's Most Outstanding Goalie award.

While splitting time with last year's starting goalie Andrew Rozenbaum, Barber went 8-1-1 during the regular season with a 1.71 goals-against average and .925 save percentage. He took over the crease on a full-time basis once the postseason kicked in and delivered several outstanding efforts.

"Cullen just kept earning more and more ice time with his play," Mitchell said. "He is the ultimate competitor, both in games and in practice."

"He seemed to thrive on big situations and stayed calm under pressure. All his accolades for this season were very well-deserved. He has an extremely bright future in front

of him."

**Franklin:** Makowski was a productive blue-line workhorse for the re-energized Patriots, who enjoyed their finest season in several years. A first team all-KLAA performer, Makowski racked up two goals and 23 assists.

**SECOND TEAM**  
**Andrew Jossey, F, Plymouth:** Whether delivering a crunching hit or deftly depositing the puck over a goalie's trapper, Jossey demonstrated he could do whatever the Wildcats needed.

Jossey, a senior who made the all-conference team as well as being selected to the D1 all-state second team, was a force with a team-high 15 goals and 18 assists in just 24 games.

The prototypical power forward also was a plus-18 as coaches had no qualms about playing him in all kinds of situations.

"Soft hands along with being a powerful skater made him a difficult match-up for the opposition," Vento said. "His combination of strength and athleticism made him a special player."

**Liam Walker, F, Salem:** One of the most important players for the D1 state quarterfinalist Rocks was senior forward Walker.

When he was out with a mid-season injury, Salem lost all four games. With him back in the lineup, the Rocks took off down the stretch and won a grueling regional.

Walker, had a solid year all season, netting 13 goals and 25 assists for a team-leading 38 points. But he really turned it up in the postseason. He centered the top producing line, which tallied eight of Salem's 12 playoff goals. It was his overtime goal in the pre-regional win over Plymouth that catapulted the Rocks.

The assistant captain brought a mix of "energy and offensive creativity" to the lineup, Ossenmacher noted.

Yet Walker could get it done on defense, too, displaying the "team-first attitude" prevalent on the 2014-15 Rocks.

"He was one of our most effective and tenacious penalty killers during the season," Ossenmacher said.

**Dylan Smith, F, Churchill:** The senior center wowed opponents with a dangerous combination of size and speed.

His versatility and unselfishness were reflected in the fact that he scored 17 goals and assisted on 17 others.

His most impactful goal was the game-winner in the Chargers' pre-regional overtime victory over Livonia Franklin.

**Alex DeFlorio, F, Stevenson:** A first team all-state honoree, DeFlorio was a threat to score a goal every shift he was on the ice.

DeFlorio's fiery style rubbed off on his teammates. The senior netted 14 goals and 10 assists during the regular season.

"Alex is a player that plays with a ton of emotion and hates to lose," Mitchell said. "He is very gifted in the offensive zone and has a knack for finding the back of the net. He worked extremely hard to get better and his development was very noticeable from the time he came into our program to the time he left."

**Frank Zak, D, Farm. Unified:** The senior defenseman was not only adept at performing his assigned role on defense; he regularly jumped into the offense, too.

In addition to scoring four goals, he had 30 assists — an impressive number for any player, especially a defenseman.

Zak's performance was recognized with a berth on the Division 1 all-state first team. He will likely play junior hockey next season, too.

"While putting up great numbers, Frank was asked to play against the opposing team's top line," Anderson said. "He has a knack for being able to slow the game down when he has the puck and

making the right play in critical situations.

"For a defenseman to get that many assists is pretty special. It means he was involved offensively and was always around the puck."

"I assume a lot of those (assists) were on Austin's goals. They were a dynamic duo. Frank has a great mind for the game and is definitely a leader."

**Justin Makowski, D, Franklin:** Makowski was a productive blue-line workhorse for the re-energized Patriots, who enjoyed their finest season in several years. A first team all-KLAA performer, Makowski racked up two goals and 23 assists.

"Justin was our force field on defense," Franklin coach Dennis Gagnon said. "He played a ton of minutes, usually against the other team's best, and nobody got around him in a one-on-one situation."

"He blocked nearly 100 shots, never missed a game, only took one penalty and managed to muster 23 assists. Justin is one of the best defensemen I've had the pleasure to coach."

**Jake Zaborowski, D, Plymouth:** Among key reasons why the Wildcats were a team to be reckoned with was Zaborowski's efforts both on defense and on the power play.

Zaborowski, a big physical senior defenseman with a heavy shot and ability to make a tape-to-tape outlet pass, collected two goals and 20 assists.

He led Plymouth in power play assists and hits and was named to the all-KLAA and D1 all-state second team for his efforts.

"Jake was a key part of a very successful power play and he could change a game with his physical play," Vento said.

**Dillon Phillips, G, Salem:** Behind every great postseason run in high school hockey is a goalie on top of his game and that was definitely the case this season with Phillips.

The senior goaltender stymied three top 10 teams in a row during the D1 regional (Plymouth, Northville, Brighton) and gave the Cubs of U-D Jesuit all they could handle in the quarterfinal at Yost.

He compiled a 12-8-4 record and .906 save percentage for the season. But against top 10 teams, Phillips went 4-1 and stopped 95 percent of shots sent his way — evidence that he takes his game to the next level during crunch time.

"When Dillon was on, he gave us a chance to win any game we played," Ossenmacher said. "Played big in net making the first save and made some very timely saves during our run."

**CO-COACHES OF YEAR**  
**David Mitchell, Stevenson:** Despite losing approximately 80 percent of the scoring from last season's high-powered team, Mitchell was able to orchestrate another banner season for the Spartans, who took off like a finely-tuned Maserati after the holidays.

The Spartans' seven-year head coach expertly managed his lines to maximize chemistry and production, leading Stevenson to a 19-6-5 record and berth in the Division 2 state championship game against eventual champion Birmingham Brother Rice. Mitchell led the Spartans to the D2 state title in 2013.

"This team was a group that was very close both on and off the ice," Mitchell said. "They bought into everything the coaching staff wanted them to do. The work ethic and commitment to improvement was consistently at a high level."

"They competed, they battled and they refused to get tired or give up, no matter the situation. I could not be more proud of a team than I am of this one. It was truly a memorable season."

**Ryan Ossenmacher, Salem:** Throughout his eight-year tenure as head coach at Salem, the Rocks have been a highly competitive group with

**2015 ALL-AREA BOYS HOCKEY FIRST TEAM**  
F-Mick Sinclair, sr., Stevenson  
F-Noah Willer, sr., Salem  
F-Josh Smith, sr., Plymouth  
F-Austin Bottrell, sr., F.H. Unified  
F-Drake Cole, sr., Farmington  
D-Noah Saad, sr., Salem  
D-Alec Allen, jr., Stevenson  
G-Cullen Barber, jr., Stevenson

**SECOND TEAM**  
F-Andrew Jossey, sr., Plymouth  
F-Liam Walker, sr., Salem  
F-Dylan Smith, sr., Churchill  
F-Alex DeFlorio, sr., Stevenson  
D-Frank Zak, sr., Farm. Hills U.  
D-Justin Makowski, sr., Franklin  
D-Jake Zaborowski, sr., Plymouth  
G-Dillon Phillips, sr., Salem

**THIRD TEAM**  
F-Jason Petras, jr., Farmington  
F-Brendan Whitney, jr., Franklin  
F-Zach Golieniak, jr., Salem  
F-Danny Arnold, jr., F.H. Unified  
D-Adam Olson, jr., Stevenson  
D-Jared Merandi, sr., Plymouth  
G-Matt Monendo, sr., Franklin

**FOURTH TEAM**  
F-Ben Kowalske, jr., Stevenson  
F-Chase Wallis, jr., Franklin  
F-Joe Majoros, jr., Farmington  
F-Jack Cikra, jr., Farm. Hills U.  
D-Kyle Kozier, jr., Plymouth  
D-Brian Jonik, jr., Farmington  
D-Andrew Nathan, jr., F.H. Unified  
G-Jared Maddock, sr., Plymouth  
G-Nick Berg, sr., Canton

**CO-COACHES OF YEAR**  
David Mitchell, Livonia Stevenson  
Ryan Ossenmacher, Salem

**HONORABLE MENTIONS**  
F.N. Unified: Joey Lajcay; Brendan Dilloway, Lucio D'Ascenzo; Farmington: Richard Lantz, Cam Noseworthy, Jordan Hoke; Stevenson: Vince Glenn, Stephen Olshanski, Alex Hunt, Andrew Nowak, Andrew Rozenbaum; Churchill: Andrew Broyles, Joe Wozniak, Dan Hudy, Parker Hodges; Franklin: Trevor Lassaline; Plymouth: James Baldwin, Kyle VandenBosch, Ben Chafin; Salem: Matt Schaumburger, Evan Newel, Bailey Thompson, Zach Newsum; Canton: Tommy Kiddle, Hunter Schlamp, Connor Wherrett.

plenty of success on the ice and accountability off it.

Ossenmacher's professional approach has rubbed off, with players sporting dress clothes (including neckties) when leaving the locker room.

They also have demonstrated maturity and community awareness, helping youngsters during USA Hockey's "Try Hockey for Free" event in February.

And don't forget what the 2014-15 Rocks achieved in rinks all winter.

They posted a 14-11-4 record, but more importantly won a Division 1 regional championship for the first time in Salem history. Salem ultimately fell 4-2 to University of Detroit-Jesuit in a D1 quarterfinal at Yost Arena.

"Although this team went further than any other Salem team, it was not necessarily the most talented team we have had," Ossenmacher said. "But they were one of the most 'bought-in' teams we have ever had."

"It was a special group who were committed to putting Salem first. We probably blocked more shots this year than any other season. That started with our top players. When your leading goal scorer (Noah Willer) also wins the best defensive forward award for your team, it goes a long way in stressing the importance of sacrifice and team-first mentality."

Ossenmacher now has 102 victories at the Salem helm — the most by any Plymouth-Canton Educational Park hockey coach.

Salem's senior leadership also was outstanding, a major factor in the team's perseverance during struggles early in the season.

"At one point we were 8-4 and ranked in the top 10," Ossenmacher said. "Shortly after we were below .500."

"It would have been easy to continue on that downward path, but our leaders (captain Noah Saad, assistant captains Willer, Liam Walker, Dillon Phillips and Evan Newel) wouldn't let that happen, which is why we ended on such an upswing."

Ossenmacher, who gave a nod to the "terrific" efforts of assistant coaches Aaron Cheesman and Brandon Scero, added that the way the Rocks rolled through the regional — defeating Plymouth, Northville and Brighton — was something that will not be soon forgotten at Salem.

"Our state quarterfinals appearance is further than any Salem team has gone," he said. "The way we did it made it even more special. At the time, we were disappointed not making it to Compuware (where the semifinals and finals took place). But we can look back now and see what a special run it really was."

Ossenmacher, a middle school science teacher in the Walled Lake district, resides in Northville with his wife and two children (ages 5 and 2).



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Carrying the ball Wednesday for Plymouth is Michelle Burke (No. 11), who scored one of the Wildcats goals against Novi.

PREP WRAPS

# Plymouth girls lax team splits pair

Salem drops 9-4 girls lacrosse match; baseball romps for Wildcats, Rocks

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Plymouth's varsity girls lacrosse team played a couple tough contests on back-to-back nights, prevailing 13-7 over Saline but falling 10-9 Wednesday to Kensington Conference rival Novi.

Wildcats' head coach Jake Wieloch said his team fell just short against Novi despite a solid all-around performance.

Leading Plymouth (3-1 overall, 0-1 in the Kensington Conference) was Natalie Nowicki, with five goals while Marissa Cirino chipped in with two.

Tallying single markers were Michelle Burke and Jess Cristiu while the Wildcats received solid work on defense by Sarah Curtis, Eliza-

beth O'Donahue, Hanna-Reese Figley and Abigail Bolterman.

Dividing goalkeeping duties were Erin Oleszczak and Elizabeth Elliott.

Tuesday's victory over the Hornets was sparked by four-goal games from Nowicki and Cirino and a 10-save performance in goal by Oleszczak.

Contributing to the Plymouth attack were Gretchen Schoen (two goals), Madeleine Caswell, Cierra Steiner and Burke with one goal each.

Plymouth now embarks on spring break, with the next game set for Monday, April 13, at Northville.

## Salem falls 9-4

In a Kensington Conference opener for Salem's varsity girls lacrosse team, the Rocks' offense could not get going against visiting Northville. The Mustangs rolled to a 9-4 victory to drop Salem's record to 2-4, 0-1.

Scoring two goals for Sa-

lem was sophomore Leah Tardiff, with single tallies by junior Colleen Shortal and senior captain Joslyn Longe.

Salem head coach Dave Medley said his team played well against a tough opponent, citing strong defensive work and goalkeeping by junior Celine Pilon.

Medley noted that the Rocks need to work on winning faceoffs, something that "is just going to require more time and experience."

Next up for the Rocks is a game Monday, April 13, against Canton.

## Baseball

**PLYMOUTH 12, S.L. EAST 0:** On Wednesday in the season opener at South Lyon East, the Wildcats rolled to a four-inning mercy-rule victory. Kevin Anthony pitched the first three innings for the win, giving up just one hit. Pitching the fourth was Taylor Burke.

Leading Plymouth's attack were Seth Hubbard (3-3, four RBI) and Josh Sulak (3-for-3, two RBI). Hubbard hit a three-run homer. Also chipping in with two walks, two stolen bases and a single was Pete Carravallah.

**SALEM 14, WAYNE 4:** Salem's varsity baseball team got off on the winning track with Wednesday's rout over Wayne Memorial. Josh Penn led the Rocks with a 2-for-4 performance.

## EAGLES

Continued from Page B1

but PCA's next-best hitter is back. That would be senior pitcher Michael Slater.

"With the graduation of Daniel Jipping and Johnny Lauch, we lost roughly 50 percent of our offensive production and about the same percentage of innings pitched," Bottorff emphasized. "But fortunately, we still have Michael Slater for one more year, and he accounted for the other 50 percent of innings pitched and was the third leading hitter."

### Key performers

In addition to being PCA's ace starting pitcher, Slater will have the chance to help his own cause by batting either second

or third in the lineup.

"He comes in with a great deal of leadership and desire to have a great season," Bottorff said. "He has always been a workhorse on the mound and hopefully we can cut down some of those innings."

"But he has such a smooth delivery, he can go a long time without getting tired or sore."

The second pitcher is senior lefthander Tanner Hay, who the coach described as "sneaky fast with a slow windup but an explosive delivery. He has natural movement on his throws and last season he was able to control it and be very effective. I expect a great season from Tanner this year."

PCA's third senior is second baseman Jordan Talbott, also a candidate for innings on the mound and outfield when needed.

"He has a good arm but not

much experience pitching," Bottorff said. "Jordan has contributed every year in high school and I expect this year to be no different."

### Junior gems

A quintet of juniors will have plenty to say about whether the Eagles will have a winning season in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

At the top of that list is Josh Slater, set to catch and play first base with occasional stints on the mound.

"Josh will bat cleanup and is probably the best leader on the team," Bottorff said. "He has been going to the cage all winter and is showing a lot of power so far in practice."

Other juniors are catcher Nick Andres, third baseman Jake Shook and corner outfielders Will Crecelius and AJ Greuber. All will be key start-

ers.

"Will and AJ possess speed, which we are planning on taking full advantage of this year," the coach said.

### Youthful options

Several sophomores give Bottorff plenty of options. He plans on using them regularly.

Austin Andres will start in centerfield "and is probably the most athletic player we have. He is definitely the fastest on the team and has a strong arm. He will bat second or third and hit for power."

Bottorff said Matt Cusumano, Adam Albert, Nathan Bishop, Josh Mason and Brendon Hess are other promising 10th-graders.

Cusumano will fill in at shortstop and outfield while Albert can pitch and play second base. Bishop is available to catch and play corner infield

positions.

Mason is another utility player. He will find playing time at catcher, third base and the outfield. Hess is a fleet-footed outfielder who also will be employed as a pinch runner.

The Eagles have three freshmen on the roster. They are Jake Morby (third base, catcher, pitcher), Conner Smith and Evan Wright.

Smith and Wright are outfielders, although the latter might be able to help out at second base from time to time.

**PLYMOUTH 12, S.L. EAST 0:** On Wednesday in the season opener at South Lyon East, the Wildcats rolled to a four-inning mercy-rule victory. Kevin Anthony pitched the first three innings for the win, giving up just one hit. Pitching the fourth was Taylor Burke.

Leading Plymouth's attack were Seth Hubbard (3-3, four RBI) and Josh Sulak (3-for-3, two RBI). Hubbard hit a three-run homer. Also chipping in with two walks, two stolen bases and a single was Pete Carravallah.

**SALEM 14, WAYNE 4:** Salem's varsity baseball team got off on the winning track with Wednesday's rout over Wayne Memorial. Josh Penn led the Rocks with a 2-for-4 performance.

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## SMALL STEPS



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Bad habits are hard to break. But by making small changes one at a time, you can overcome your hurdles for a healthier lifestyle.

### Celebrity fitness trainer offers tips for reaching goals and staying motivated

Staying healthy doesn't have to mean overhauling your lifestyle. Sometimes small changes can have big impacts. Take it from celebrity fitness trainer Latreal "La" Mitchell: "Everyone can reach their health and fitness goals. It's all about setting attainable goals and staying motivated to see results."

To look, feel and live better, Mitchell is offering tips for small lifestyle changes you can make that can inspire you to make more in the future.

#### Get moving

If exercise is not a part of your life now, don't worry. "In a short time, you can be doing quality exercises," Mitchell said. "The key is to start small."

Try short sets of pushups, planks, squats and lunges and work your way up. Ten minutes can make a real difference. Remember, little things like taking the stairs instead of the elevator will keep you feeling great all day.

Just be sure to make exercise non-negotiable. Life is busy and it's easy to find any number of reasons to skip a workout. Make yourself a fitness schedule and stick to it – and then don't let anyone or anything stop you from staying on track.

#### Eat right

The small goal of adding more fiber to your diet can lead you to better nutrition choices. Aim to get 25 to 38 grams of fiber every day. In addition to upping your fruit and vegetable intake and swapping out processed white bread and pasta for the whole wheat variety, fiber supplements can help you meet your fiber goals. But choose wisely, as some options have additional benefits beyond supporting digestive health.

For example, Meta offers products made with psyllium fiber which has multi-health benefits. Try adding Metamucil powder to a morning smoothie. Also try new MetaBiotic probiotic supplement.

For many people, snacking can be a downfall, especially during a busy workday. Try substituting your usual temptations with healthier options. For example, almonds and light popcorn are a good substitute for chips and are more satisfying. If you have a sweet tooth, ditch the afternoon pastry that's high in calories, but won't actually help you feel full. Instead, look for a delicious, easy-to-pack snack like a Meta Health Bar that helps satisfy hunger as a healthy snack.

Lastly, stay hydrated. Skip sugary sodas and sports drinks and opt for water throughout the day. If you need a boost of flavor, add a lemon wedge, cucumber slice or some fresh herbs. Water helps you feel full and process fiber, while helping to keep you hydrated.

More tips can be found at [www.metawellness.com](http://www.metawellness.com).

– StatePoint



Paula Swain

### How to bring up difficult topics with aging parents

People are living longer today, so many of my clients are finding that their aging parents are in need of assistance. Caring for your aging parent is something you hope will never happen, but it is something you need to think about just in case it does.

I, as well as other local professionals, have been hosting an "Aging Parents" workshop for the last couple of years helping to educate and answer questions on taking care of an aging parent. I thought would share some of what I have learned in this column.

» Bringing up difficult topics. You may find some resistance. First step is to open up a dialogue with your parent. Make sure to choose the right time and place. Ideally you want privacy. Express your concerns and then simply listen to them (no interrupting). Acknowledge their feelings and share your perspective. Hopefully, you will find a common ground. If not, reach out to someone whose opinion they value – doctor, clergy, adviser, other family members or friend. Ask them to talk with your parent.

» If you can, open up the lines of communication. Find out their needs and wishes. Ask them about long-term care (what would they like to happen if this issues arises), funeral arrangement, finances, investments, medical care decision and insurance. Also, who are their advisers? Ask if you can meet them. Ask where all the documents are kept.

The following legal documents are needed: will, trust (or both) and financial power of attorney (arranges for someone to han-

See PARENTS, Page B6

### Stay on track with your wellness goals

With dreams of bettering their lives, people of all ages pledge to create resolutions with the start of every year. Many people discover, however, that it's easy to make a resolution but difficult to stick to it.

With these helpful tips from Sunsweet and Dawn Jackson Blatner, registered dietitian, certified specialist in sports dietetics and licensed dietitian nutritionist, it's easy to get back on a healthy living track:

#### 1. Get back on track

Falling off the wagon can be discouraging, but don't let your mind get in the way of your might. Track your daily meals and snacks to help you stay focused on what and how much you are eating. Writing in a food journal is a great way to look back over your week to see what you did well and could do better next week.

#### 2. Pack your lunch

Being in control of what



Staying on track takes will power and determination, but by squeezing a few easy hacks into your day you'll be on your way to reaching your wellness goals.

you eat throughout the day is powerful in staying on track with your resolutions. Why hit the greasy food truck outside when you can whip up a fresh salad at home? Sunsweet's

Quinoa, Grape and Prune Salad is an easy, protein-packed lunch that will power you through the day.

See GOALS, Page B6

### Revisiting those new year resolutions

So now that it's spring, how are we doing on those new year resolutions? Yeah, remember those? Every year we make those promises to ourselves and, every year, many of us break them – usually in the first month.

The good news is we survived another Michigan winter. The bad news is we are seeing the effects from hibernating all season long – not only physically, but mentally. Winter can take its toll on our minds, even more so than our bodies. Spring is the time to rev up and recharge. Dust off those running shoes and get to work.

When talking about our health and wellness, make small changes and set attainable goals to encourage a permanent lifestyle change rather than trying to make a complete overhaul overnight. That will



Barbara Deyo

set you up for failure.

It's a good idea to re-assess every so often. I find the change of seasons is a good time to evaluate what's working, what's not and fine-tune our goals.

Here are a few things to keep in mind as you set your workout goals for the future:

**1. Show up:** The hardest part is putting on your workout clothes and getting in the car. No matter how badly you don't feel like doing it, once you get there, you will be glad you did. Now that the weather has

See DEYO, Page B6

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# Plan the perfect Alfresco gathering

Tips for delicious pairings and decorations for your next outdoor event

The days of chilly air and dull skies have been replaced with the sights and sounds of warmer weather. This change in the season is cause for celebration, so pull out all the stops for an outdoor gathering guests will long remember.

From festive decor to the bright colors of seasonally inspired cuisine, use these tips for setting up your alfresco spread:

**Make a memorable entrance.** Invite guests into your gathering with warm and cheerful decor, starting with your door. Hang a moss-adorned wreath with a few vibrant sprigs of pink roses or yellow tulips, which you can keep up long after the event.

**Deck the table.** Make sure your centerpiece provides a bright and welcoming ambiance. A low key gathering calls for the downhome elegance of daisies and grasses shooting from mini terra cotta pots or aluminum canisters. More formal events will shine with fresh cut lilies, roses and tulips placed in short cube or rectangle glass vases.

**Start with small bites.** Serve a few appetizers for your crowd to enjoy as they wait for other guests to arrive. You can't go wrong with deviled eggs garnished with fresh herbs or cheese and crackers. Aim for three cheeses - one hard (Parmesan), one soft (Brie) and one blue.

**Serve pairings that please.** Spring foods pair perfectly with a fruit-forward wine like pinot grigio. Choose one of high-quality from the northern region of Italy such as Barone Fini Valdadige Pinot Grigio (\$12). This crisp and clean wine goes well with seafood, chicken or white-sauce pasta entrees.

**Embrace spring flavors.** Bring the garden to your table with fresh fruits and vegetables. Plump, red strawberries look and taste wonderful atop a bed of fresh spinach



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Pull out all the stops for an outdoor gathering guests will long remember.

## CHICKEN BREASTS WITH TOMATOES AND OLIVES

Yield: 4 servings

- 4 (6-ounce) skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1 cup multicolored cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
- 3 tablespoons oil and vinegar dressing, divided
- 20 olives, halved
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) crumbled feta cheese

Prepare grill to medium-high heat. Sprinkle chicken evenly with 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. Place chicken on grill rack coated with cooking spray, and grill 6 minutes on each side or until chicken is done. Combine tomatoes, dressing and olives in skillet over medium heat; cook 2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cut each chicken breast half into 3/4-inch slices. Top each chicken breast half with 1/4 cup tomato mixture. Sprinkle each serving with 2 tablespoons cheese and torn basil leaves, if desired.

with a drizzle of balsamic vinegar. Fresh asparagus stems give quiche and egg casseroles texture, while also making a great sauteed side dish. Also try this Chicken with Tomatoes and Olives recipe that's easy to make and sure to please.

From simple floral arrange-

ments to the colorful foods you serve, creating a lovely alfresco gathering is easier than you think. For more ideas to make your event memorable, visit facebook.com/BaroneFiniWines.

- Family Features

## PARENTS

Continued from Page B5

dle the finances).

Also discuss patient advocate - health care power of attorney - arrangements for someone to handle medical issues. I have this document drawn up for my children on their 18th birthday. When your child turns 18, they are considered an adult and you will not be able to make health care decisions for them anymore. This is a very important document that everyone should have.

There are many forms of dementia. Alzheimer's is a form of dementia. There are some medical problems that can mimic the symptoms of dementia - urinary tract infection, dehydration, over-medication and depression. Some tips for keeping your mind sharp - walk, eat healthy, do crossword or mind puzzles, read and change your routine. Try brushing your teeth with the opposite hand - it's not that easy.

Understanding the definition of being admitted to the hospital or being admitted under "observation" when you are on Medicare. When a patient who meets Medicare's three-day formal admission requirement moves to a skilled nursing facility, the program covers 100 percent of the first 20 days. Patients leaving the hospital for a nursing facility after an "observation" stay pay the full cost out of pocket.

Taking care of an aging parent can be overwhelming. Make sure to take care of yourself. Ask for help. Join a caregiver support group.

Don't try to do this alone. There are a many organizations and programs willing to help. Check out some of these websites.

» www.aaa1c.org - Senior Alliance - senior resources

» www.alz.org/gmc - Alzheimer Association

» www.caregiver.com - Great articles on all aspects of aging parents

» www.caring.com - Search for housing options in your area

» www.caremanager.org - Looking for local or out of state care manager

» Eldercare Locator - 800-677-1116, referral service sponsored by the federal government that can direct you to resources in your area

Preserving your relationship with your parents is extremely important. Understand that they may be unwilling to talk to you. They may resent you for interfering. You may have to try different approaches to get them to open up with you. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Paula Swain CFP®, is a financial consultant at Swain Financial, LLC, 1225 S. Main Street, Plymouth. Contact her 734-738-6300. Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. The opinions here are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations. Consult with an adviser about your specific situation.

## GOALS

Continued from Page B5

### 3. Choose right at snack time

The 3 p.m. slump is almost unavoidable. You're three hours past

lunch and it's too soon for dinner. Instead of reaching for an unsatisfying bag of pretzels or chips, bring Sunsweet Ones Individually Wrapped Prunes or nuts from home to curb the afternoon hunger. Ones are lower in sugar than other

dried fruit and have a low glycemic index of only 29. Prunes are digested and absorbed slowly by the body, which helps to sustain energy over a longer period of time compared to foods with a higher glycemic index.

### 4. Get moving

Everyone has a lot on their plate and with a busy schedule comes loads of stress and anxiety, but much of that can be alleviated with exercise. If you think about it, 30-40 minutes of exercise a day is only 2 percent of your day. Small changes,

like walks around the block or using an app to count steps is a great way to track your movement throughout the day.

### 5. Make it fun

Instead of making drastic resolutions early in the year, and inevitably falling off the wagon

a month or two later, embrace a healthy living lifestyle. The key to lasting, lifelong health is to make changes you enjoy. Make eating well and exercising fun and it won't be hard to stick with.

- Family Features

## DEYO

Continued from Page B5

warmed up, it certainly makes it easier to get motivated.

**2. Make an appointment:** Hire a trainer, get a work out buddy or commit to a class schedule. It makes it easier to show up if someone is holding you accountable. Once you have arrived, you will have a more successful workout if someone is there with you to help guide you or cheer you on.

**3. Warm up:** A proper warmup increases blood flow to your muscles, reducing stiffness and risk of injury and will improve your overall performance. It also gives your mind time to prepare for the task at hand.

**4. Break a sweat:** You might as well make your time worth it. No sense in showing up and phoning it in. Sweating stimulates

the lymphatic system (allowing the body to dispel toxins), controls mood swings, helps prevent colds and other illnesses, clears up your skin and, of course, burns calories!

**5. Breathe:** When you breathe deeply, it keeps you calm and focused, maintains your heart rate, oxygenates the blood and helps to release endorphins. Proper breathing is just as important as completing your reps.

**6. Hydrate:** Drink water before, during and after your workout. In fact, drink water all day. Something as simple as drinking enough water throughout the day will increase your metabolism, curb your appetite, aid in digestion and help you perform at peak efficiency. A good rule of thumb is to drink a half-ounce to one ounce of water per pound of your body weight daily.

**7. Cool down:** You need to gradually reduce

your heart rate once you are done and allow the oxygenated blood to circulate and deliver much-needed nutrients to your body to help grow and repair your newly worked-out muscles. A post workout stretch also helps to eliminate lactic acid in the muscles.

Whatever your goals are, remember to be kind to yourself and make the commitment to yourself first. Remember step one - show up. The rest will fall into place.

Barbara Deyo, owner of Deyo Studio for face and body, is an internationally acclaimed makeup artist, having groomed the faces of Paul McCartney, Bob Seger, Kerry Washington, Shaun Robinson, Erin Cummings and many more. Barbara has been named Best of the Best by BRIDES Magazine, Allure, Hour, Real Detroit and WDIV-TV. Deyo Studio is located at 576 N. Old Woodward Ave, 2nd floor in downtown Birmingham. Contact her at 248-203-1222 or go to www.deyostudio.com.

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# Spring

Life in  **GO** **EXPO**

**Monday**  
**April 27, 2015**  
**1 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

Schoolcraft College,  
 VisTaTech Center  
 18600 Haggerty Road  
 Livonia, MI 48152

**First 100 attendees receive a door prize!**

- **Free Demonstrations and Workshops**
- **Local Exhibitors**
- **Prizes**
- **Refreshments**
- **Free Admission/Parking**

## The EXPO for active adults

### Featured Guest Speakers



**New Technology in Pain Relief**  
 1:30 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.  
 Dr. Sol Cogan, CEO of HealthQuest and HealthQuest's Back & Neck Solution Centers of America, and the official team D.C. of the Detroit Lions.



**How to Determine What You Will Need to Retire and Stay Retired**  
 3:00 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.  
 Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management, Inc.



**The Senior Gems: Alzheimer's and Dementia Care**  
 4:30 p.m. - 5:25 p.m.  
 Colleen McDonald, Director of Community Relations, Senior Helpers.

### Demonstrations and Workshops

- **Health, Wealth and a Confident Retirement**  
 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
 Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
- **Understanding Memory Loss**  
 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
 St. Mary Mercy Livonia
- **Emergency Preparedness**  
 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
 Sponsored by Schoolcraft College CEPD
- **Improving Communication With Aging Parents**  
 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
 Sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care
- **Social and Emotional Benefits of Art**  
 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Sponsored by Schoolcraft College CEPD
- **Healthy Smile for a Lifetime with Dental Implants**  
 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Smoler Institute of Implant Dentistry
- **Tai Chi**  
 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
 Sponsored by Schoolcraft College CEPD

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## Livonia woman proudly wears state pageant crown

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Forget everything you think you know about beauty pageants, from stereotypical stage moms to girls with too much makeup.

Sierra Bognear, 24, a Livonia resident and the new Miss Michigan United States, will set you straight.

"People say to me, 'Oh, you do pageants' and then I get that certain look from them. People really don't know what it's like to compete in a pageant. The girls are not what people think they are. For the most part the girls I've met have had beautiful spirits ... beautiful inside and out. Two young girls I met in the Miss United States pageant hardly had any makeup on. I wish people could see that side of it.

"I would encourage any girl to get into pageants, to go for it."

That's just how Bognear, the middle child of 13 siblings, took to the pageant stage three years ago. She had always thought about entering a competition, but as a teenager was shy and couldn't imagine modeling a bathing suit for judges. But when a friend, who planned to compete, encouraged Bognear to give it a try, she took a second look at the pageant experience.

"I was getting older and gaining more confidence," said Bognear, a Farmington Harrison High School graduate who studied theater in both California and Georgia before transferring to Madonna University where she is finishing a degree in criminal justice. She



Sierra Bognear of Livonia, crowned Miss Michigan United States, will compete for a national title in July.

hopes to graduate next year. "She (her friend) said it was a good opportunity to get out the issues I'm passionate about, to use it as a platform to raise awareness."

### Nonprofit organization

Those issues include at-risk girls, helping to empower and build self-esteem in young women and encouraging them to pursue higher education.



Sierra Bognear, Miss Michigan United States, is studying criminal justice at Madonna University. She also models and hopes to act on film and television.

Bognear created a nonprofit organization, Girls With A Purpose, last year to address those topics and "maybe make changes in the community and the world."

"I've always been passionate about working with young girls. Lately I've been learning more about human trafficking," Bognear said. "It's important to raise awareness."

She reached out to a group of 12- to 14-year-olds in a latch-key program and hopes to partner with Alternatives for Girls, a Detroit organization that helps homeless and high-risk girls and young women avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation.

Earlier this week, Bognear read to youngsters at an early learning center, although her first official appearance as Miss Michigan United States will be April 8 at a Detroit Pistons game.

Bognear competed in the Miss Michigan USA pageant

system, which includes the Miss Universe competition, for two years before switching to the Miss Michigan United States pageant program, which has teamed with the Miss World competition.

During a preliminary run for the Miss Michigan USA, she was a first runner-up and won the Miss Pure Michigan title. She went on to compete in the pageant, but didn't place in the finals.

### Family, faith

Bognear said her family has supported her interest in pageants, both financially and emotionally. Faith plays a big role in her attitude toward competition.

"My parents raised us up always going to church on Sunday and Bible study on Tuesday," said Bognear, who has been involved in praise and worship ministry. "It guides me and it's something I always carry with me."

Bognear prays before competition, tries to do her best and knows "it's in God's hands now." Modeling in front of pageant judges isn't about showing off in a bathing suit, but "it's about your presence and confidence and what you bring to the table," Bognear said. "I'm so much more comfortable. I'm happy with what God has molded and shaped. I don't have to try and be what people think a pageant girl should be."

For more about the Miss Michigan United States pageants, visit [missmichiganUS.com](http://missmichiganUS.com).

## Work is nonstop with new baby, but mom loves every minute

My folks ran into my best friend this past weekend at a local bar/restaurant. When my mom mentioned it to me later she told me she had thought about taking a picture and sending it to me, but then decided that might hurt my feelings and make me feel jealous about not being out on the town. You know what, though? I'm not jealous. I have never been happier in my life, and never would I trade these moments with my daughter for anything else, even a night out.

It's just after 4 a.m. right now. I am exhausted, to say the least, and have been up now for just about an hour. Baby girl has started teething and really is having a hard time. She woke up only twice last night, but unlucky for me the timing of her wake-ups caused me to have yet another night with little sleep. But when I wake up at 3 a.m. or 4 a.m., I am happy. I have never felt so loved in my life before, and have never been so needed. My baby wakes up and cries for me — her mama — to feed her, or hold her, or change her.

The day will be long, no doubt. I will commute to my new career and spend the day working hard so that my daughter can have nice things in her life. I think about her constantly while I am there. After work, I drive back across town and pick her up. Then comes the fun part; we have limited time to get playing, trying real food, bath, books and bottles done. Of course I also have the household things to keep up with, and certainly if it's nice out we want to go for a walk. Sometimes, it's 9 p.m. and my baby has fallen asleep, and I lay exhausted next to her and think to myself "Did I have dinner today?" It's a constant go-go-go, but I wouldn't give any of it up.

### Exhaustion then, now

When I think back to other times in my life, I remember being busy and feeling like I never had time to get things done. I think I didn't get enough sleep at times, and I can clearly recall moments when I felt I was suffering from extreme exhaustion. But I had no idea what exhaustion was. I didn't know there was such a love that one would want to wake up with a screaming baby in the middle of the night, three or four times in eight hours. I didn't know exhaustion meant sleeping a few hours at a time, for months at a time, and still managing to be the play date, be the food provider, and the bath giver, and the launderer and the housekeeper, all while still being the mom and also working full time to be the financial provider too.

Mom. It's an awesome word. A mom is a whole lot of things — a friend, a shoulder to cry on, a person to feed you and bathe you and clothe you and comfort you. A mom is a person who will always listen to you and understand you and let you pour your heart out. A mom will hold your hand no matter how old you are, and will rub your back and tell you everything will be OK when you are feeling your worst. I have always admired my mother, and now there is a little girl who will call me Mom, and hopefully, one day, she will admire me too.

Sarah Davies of Livonia writes about the ups and downs of motherhood from a new, single mom's perspective. Contact her at [sarahmariadavies@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmariadavies@gmail.com).



Sarah Davies  
THEN THERE WERE TWO

## Brides Against Breast Cancer brings gowns to Canton

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Brides who buy a gown April 18 at Fellows Creek Golf Club will benefit a cancer-related nonprofit organization at the same time.

Brides Against Breast Cancer travels the country selling donated wedding gowns and will bring 400-600 dresses to Fellows Creek. Lori Hagey, show manager, said it visited southeastern Michigan last year but that Canton is a new stop on the tour.

"Our organization is fairly new. We've been around four years," she said. "We started out with 30 shows and we're up to 150. It has grown rapidly. We run two-six shows every weekend. We have trucks all across the country."

Hagey said each tour stop combines a bridal trunk sale with wedding vendors for a "one-stop" show. Brides can try on dresses, buy a favorite and take it home that day. Sizes range from 4-20 and prices go from \$75-\$1,800. The average price is \$600. New dresses, some with original price tags from \$6,000-\$10,000, are donated by retailers and designers. The sale also includes gently used gowns donated by former brides.

"We have everything from David's Bridal to Kleinfeld in New York," Hagey said. "No gown in our inventory is over \$1,800."

The show will run 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for VIP attendees and 2-5 p.m. for general admission. The VIP session, limited to approximately 100 participants, costs \$20 and will include beverages, "lite bites," and giveaways. General admission is \$5.

Hagey said 78 percent of show sales support fund cancer-related programs and services.

"We have our headquarters in Sarasota, Florida. The money goes to fund not only programs in Sarasota, but to the Health Support Network." The Network's website offers information on exercise, stress reduction, nutrition and cancer.

Fellows Creek Golf Club is located at 2936 S. Lotz. Register at [bridesabc.org](http://bridesabc.org) or call 877-721-4673.

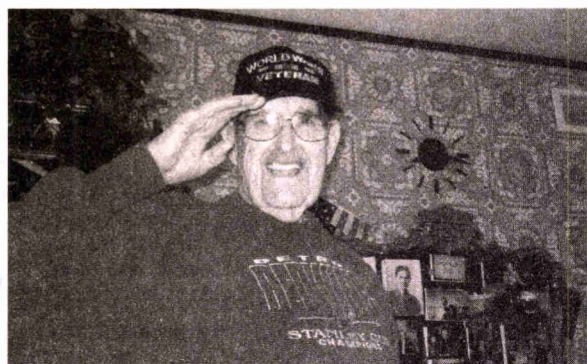


A bride considers a gown at the Brides Against Breast Cancer trunk sale.



Wedding gowns await shoppers at a Brides Against Breast Cancer sale.

**BIRTHDAY**



Joseph Knapp, 90, of Livonia

SUBMITTED

Joseph V. Knapp of Livonia celebrated his 90th birthday with family and received a special memento. Glenn Anderson, former state senator, presented him with a flag that had flown over the Capitol.

"Joe could not have been happier," wrote his wife, Carole, in a letter to the *Observer*. "Joe is an all-American guy who loves his country."

He was born on Feb. 19, 1925, in Elmsford, N.Y. As a young boy, he moved with his parents and two sisters to Tarrytown, N.Y., to live with his grandparents. His grandfather was a gardener for the Rockefeller family and rented a house on the family estate called Pocantico Hills.

Knapp graduated from high school and was inducted into the

U.S. Army Air Forces in 1943. He was stationed in South Dakota, South Carolina and Missouri and was sent to England before being discharged in 1945.

He attended General Motors Institute in Flint, graduating in 1950. He joined the labor relations department at Fisher Body in Janesville, Wisc. While in Wisconsin he met his future wife on a blind date. Their 62nd wedding anniversary is Oct. 24. The couple has four children and five grandchildren.

Knapp was transferred in 1959 to the Willow Run plant, where he worked as trim superintendent. He retired in 1987.

His hobbies include wood working, reading and puzzles "by the dozen."

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

**Butterflies**

Jed Bromfield will present "Witness Metamorphosis: Raising Caterpillars" 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Parking on Hines Drive or Ann Arbor Trail. \$3 for non-members. Questions, call 734-223-5510, or visit [www.sembabutterfly.org](http://www.sembabutterfly.org).

**Livonia Garden Club**

Sue Grubba will talk about which plants are worth buying and which plants to avoid, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Grubba is an Advanced Master Gardener, president of the Association of Professional Gardeners, Michigan School of Gardening instructor, landscape designer and owner of Creative Scapes in Rochester Hills. Visitors are welcome. For more information, visit [livoniagardenclub.org](http://livoniagardenclub.org) or email [rmo78jsa@aol.com](mailto:rmo78jsa@aol.com).

**Miller Woods tours**

Take a free guided tour, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 26, and Saturday, May 2, through the nature preserve, located on Powell Road, just east of Ridge, in Plymouth. Tours are approximately an hour long and the last tour leaves at 3:30 p.m. Strollers and dogs are not allowed in Miller Woods; [millerwoods.com](http://millerwoods.com).

**Plymouth Nursery**

» Open house runs 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 25-26 and will include gift card giveaways, sales, vendor representatives, a Weber Grill demonstration and refreshments.

» Learn how to grow fruit trees, 1 p.m. Saturday, May 2. Mark Boland of Eastern Shores Nursery will present the free session.

The nursery is located at 9900 Ann Arbor Road, west of Plymouth; 734-453-5500.

**Tree, shrub sale**

ReLeaf Michigan is taking orders through Friday, April 17, for trees, shrubs and evergreens. Cost is \$15 for evergreens, \$18 for shrubs, \$50 for specialty

**GARDEN & NATURE**



SUBMITTED

Learn how to raise butterflies at the next meeting of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) in Westland.

trees, and \$36 for trees including honeycrisp apple, sugar maple and American linden. Proceeds from the sale support ReLeaf Michigan's statewide tree education and planting program.

For descriptions, photos and online ordering, visit [ReLeafMichigan.org](http://ReLeafMichigan.org).

Pickup is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at seven locations, including Handy Park, 26590 Capitol, Redford Township, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, and Goldner Walsh Nursery Inc., 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac.

**English Gardens**

» Learn to plan, plant and maintain flowers and plants in outdoor containers, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 11. Free.

» Plant a fairy garden to take home, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11. Cost is \$29.99. Sign up at the store or at [EnglishGardens.com](http://EnglishGardens.com).

Classes are held at all stores unless noted. Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506.

**Educational conference**

Tickets are available for the Master Gardener of Oakland County third annual Educational Garden Conference, "Gardening and All That Jazz - Innovation and Sustainability For Your Garden." Tickets \$80. The event runs 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. April 25 at the Oakland Schools Conference Center, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. Visit [mgsoc.org](http://mgsoc.org). No registration at the door.

**Passages** View Online [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)  
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**Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers**  
**Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers**  
 Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

**ADDISON, ELEANOR**

April 1, 2015, age 72, of Westland. Visitation Monday, 6-9pm, at L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt Rd., Westland. Mass Tuesday 9:30am at St. Theodore Catholic Church.



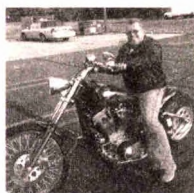
**PEDERSON, SUZANNE "SUZIE" HUBER**

April 4, 1931 - March 30, 2015. Suzie passed on Monday March 30, 2015 after a courageous 12 month battle with pancreatic cancer. Suzie is preceded in death by her husband of 53 years Dr. Bernhard L. Pederson and her son Thomas William Pederson. Suzie was born in Louisville, KY on April 4, 1931 but was raised in Dayton, OH. She attended the University of Michigan and earned a BS degree in dental hygiene in 1953. While in Ann Arbor, Suzie met the love of her life Bernhard "Ben" Pederson from Marquette, MI. Suzie and Ben were married on January 31, 1953. The early years of their marriage were spent in Ann Arbor while Ben attended Michigan's medical school, and Lexington, KY where Dr. Pederson was a member of the University of Kentucky medical school faculty. In 1967 Suzie and Ben moved to Bay City, MI where they resided for over 40 years. Together they raised their four children, established and ran a successful medical practice and actively contributed to the Bay City community. Suzie, in addition to being a loving mother and devoted wife, was very active in local politics, community fundraising and her church Trinity Episcopal. She served as President of the Bay City Public School Board; Board Member of the Bay Area YMCA; President of the Bay City Medical Auxiliary; Chairwomen of the Bay Medical Center Charity Ball; and President of the Bay City Rotary Club. Suzie was also a member of the Trinity Episcopal Vestry and served as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. In addition to her local community involvement, Suzie was active in many state and national organizations. Suzie was a member of the Michigan State Association of Parliamentarians, the National Association of Parliamentarians, the American Medical Association Political Action Committee and International Society for the Advancement of Fertility and Gynecology. In 2008, two years after Ben's passing, Suzie moved to Plymouth, MI to be closer to family. She wasted little time and made many new friends and immediately became an active member of St John's Episcopal Church where she was a member of the Vestry, served as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector and was an active member of the Women's Bible Study Group. Over the last eight years Suzie enjoyed travelling the country to visit her children and grandchildren, as well as spending her summers with family and friends on Torch Lake. While cancer may have taken Suzie's life, it never took her passion and enthusiasm for life, her love for family and friends, her strong faith or her memories of Suzie. Suzie is survived by her daughter Elise Pederson Morrison (Gary); son Bernhardt LaFald "Chip" Pederson II (Katherine Ley); daughter Suzanne Pederson Kowalkoski (Steve); grandchildren Suzanne Marguerite Morrison, Elise Grace Morrison, Morgan Lillian Morrison, Bernhardt LaFald "Beau" Pederson III, Lauren Marie Pederson, Andrew McKnight Pederson, Bernhardt Pederson Kowalkoski and Thomas William Kowalkoski. A Memorial Service celebrating Suzie's life will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth, MI on Tuesday April 14, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. A reception will follow the service at St. John's. In lieu of flowers, the Pederson Family asks that donations be made in Suzie's name to The Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association of America (DebRA). BLPI, SWPK and SAK.



**HOOVER, JR., PETER BRIAN**

Of Auburn Hills, was born in Southfield, MI on April 25, 1975, died suddenly on March 25, 2015. Preceded in death by his parents, Peter B. Hoover Sr., and Carol Ann Hoover, and brother, Jacob Roman Hoover. Peter is survived by his siblings, Andrew Hoover, Amy (Hoover) Gears, Patricia (Hoover) Bartlett, Christine (Hoover) Detary, and Casey (Hoover) Livingston. He is also survived by his grandfather, George Roman; 18 nieces and nephews; many cousins, aunts, and uncles. He was alumni of Walled Lake Western, class of 1993, and previously employed by The Oakland Press and an avid fan of the Detroit Tigers and WWE. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested by the family. Monday April 6, 1-3 p.m. at Generations Funeral Home, 29550 Grand River Farmington Hills, MI 48336.



**RISNER, FORREST**

Age 59, passed away March 18, 2015. Survived by Cecilia Risner, son Hagan, daughter Lauren, sister JoAnn Norris (Michael). Memorial Service will take place Monday April 20, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City.



**SHARKAS, CECILE DIANE**

Passed away on March 26, 2015 with her husband Gary at her side. They were in their 50th year of marriage. Born May 29, 1947 to Nick and Irene (Golebiewski) Kotys. She is survived by her sister Barbara (Donald) Neil and her brother Harold Kotys as well as her children Suzanne (Jeff) Engle and Tony and a grandson Anthony. A loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother, Cecile will be missed by her family. God has called another angel home. She will undoubtedly be doing some reorganizing in Heaven. Share memories at [charlesstepfuneralhome.com](http://charlesstepfuneralhome.com)



**SNOOKS, TODD I.**

Age 48 April 1, 2015. Beloved husband of Tammy. Dear father of Alexander James "AJ". Cherished son of Ken and Kathleen Snooks. Brother of Christopher (Kristin) Snooks and Jason (Jessica) Snooks. Nephew of Christine and David Cornell. Uncle of Sophia Snooks. His beloved dog Willy preceded him in death. Friends may visit at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Road (between 14-15 Mile Rds.) Monday 2-8pm. Funeral Mass at Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon, Birmingham, Tuesday 10am. Friends may visit at church beginning at 9:30am. Memorials may be made to Cullen Haffey Memorial Fund c/o Brother Rice High School. Obituary and condolences at [lynchfuneraldirectors.com](http://lynchfuneraldirectors.com)

**ENGAGEMENT**



Andrew Robert Sheard and Lida Ann Baur

SUBMITTED

**BAUR-SHEARD**

Lida Ann Baur and Andrew Robert Sheard announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Phil and Ann Baur of Farmington, is a 2011 graduate of Farmington High School. She plans to

graduate in 2015 from Taylor University, Upland, Ind.

Her fiancé, son of Dan and Sue Sheard of Elizabethtown, Pa., also attends Taylor University.

A May 2015 wedding is planned in Wheaton, Ill.

**REUNIONS**

Send school reunion information to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com). **DEARBORN FORDSON HIGH SCHOOL**

**CLASS OF 1965**

50th reunion is set for Aug. 7 at the Italian American Banquet Center, 39200 Five Mile, east of Haggerty, Livonia. Tickets are \$60 each. Deadline is April 11, 2015.

Contact Virginia (Mariani) Koch at 734-981-4763, [ginny6491@att.net](mailto:ginny6491@att.net); Rochell May-Bridge at 734-675-2680, [wild-child48138@aol.com](mailto:wild-child48138@aol.com). **DETROIT COOLEY**

**CLASS OF 1965**

Looking for classmates from January and June for 50th reunion on Oct. 3, 2015, at Livonia Marriott Hotel. For information, email reunion-

[cooley65@aol.com](mailto:cooley65@aol.com) or call 734-397-3308.

**NOVI HIGH SCHOOL**

**CLASS OF 1995**

Seeking classmates for a 20-year reunion Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Embassy Sites in Livonia. For more information, email [melissa-cohn8@gmail.com](mailto:melissa-cohn8@gmail.com) or visit [facebook.com/groups/Noviclassof95/OAK PARK HIGH](http://facebook.com/groups/Noviclassof95/OAK PARK HIGH)

**SCHOOL**

**CLASS OF 1975**

Save the date, Saturday, July 25, at Embassy Suites Livonia, 19525 Victor Parkway, Livonia. Classmates may send their contact information to [oakpark1975reunion@gmail.com](mailto:oakpark1975reunion@gmail.com), and to join the Reunion Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/810805715636204/>.

**RELIGION CALENDAR**

**APRIL EASTER SERVICES**

**Location:** St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia

**Details:** Easter Sunday Masses, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Contact: 734-464-4433; [stcolette.net](mailto:stcolette.net)

**EASTER SERVICES**

**Location:** Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

**Details:** Pancake breakfast, 9 a.m. April 5; Easter egg hunt, 10 a.m. April 5; Easter service, 10:30 a.m., April 5

Contact: 734-427-3660

**EASTER SERVICES**

**Location:** Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

**Details:** Easter Sunday service, 9:30 a.m., with free breakfast from 8-9:15 a.m. All visitors will receive a free DVD "Come Follow Me."

Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

**GENEROSITY SEMINAR**

**Time/Date:** 9-10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25

**Location:** St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

**Details:** Ron Chewing of Stewardship Advisors presents Experiencing the Joy of Generosity

Contact: 734-459-3333

**LADIES CRAFT NIGHT**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Friday, April 10

**Location:** Crossroads Church, at Sacred Heart Conference Center, 29125 Six Mile, Livonia

**Details:** The theme is "Cute Crafty Cupcakes." \$5 paid in advance by April 8 or \$6 at the door

Contact: [crossroadsnow.org](http://crossroadsnow.org) or 248-890-5718

**LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18

**Location:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia

**Details:** Tracee Swank presents "Leading From the Center of God's Will." Fee is \$25 and includes refreshments, lunch, workbook, and resource listing. Fee is \$75 for three or more. Register at 734-464-0211 or email [register@holylivonia.org](mailto:register@holylivonia.org)

**Contact:** [holylivonia.org](mailto:holylivonia.org)

**LUNCHEON**

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18

**Location:** Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia

**Details:** The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary annual "Swing into Spring" luncheon will feature a brief presentation about The Salvation Army's after-school programs, a silent auction and a performance by the Detroit Temple Corps youth dance team. \$45 per person. Reservations by April 10

Contact: 248-443-5500, Ext. 231

**RUMMAGE SALE**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 17

**Location:** Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main, Plymouth

**Details:** Rent a table or space and sell your own stuff; tables are \$20. Proceeds to Older, Wiser and Loving Senior Group

Contact: 734-453-5464, Ext. 22

**RUMMAGE SALE**

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, April 25 and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26

**Location:** Holy Cross Lutheran

Church, 3065 Six Mile, Livonia

**Details:** Furniture, home and kitchen items, clothing, books, toys, antiques, dishes, collectibles, along with a bake sale. Proceeds of sale and donations benefit Vista Maria

Contact: 734-427-1414

**RUMMAGE SALE**

**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, May 1, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 2

**Location:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia

**Details:** Admission for Thursday's preview sale is \$2. Bag sale (\$3) and half-price sale are on Saturday. Bags will be provided

Contact: 734-464-0211

**SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

**Time/Date:** 4-6 p.m. Thursday, April 16

**Location:** St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia

**Details:** Preschool 3- and 4-year-olds; kindergarten through grade 8.

Contact: 734-425-4420

May you find comfort in family and friends

## Vignettes designed to spark end-of-life medical plans

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Michelle Moccia and her colleagues in the ER want to know how you plan to die.

They hope your family members know your wishes, too.

"In talking about how you want your end of the life to be, it's tough," said Moccia, a nurse practitioner and program manager in the Senior ER at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia. "No one wants to die, but as you get older you need to talk about that. At any age, you need to articulate your wishes in case something unexpected happens.

"We want to encourage everybody, no matter how old you are, you need to inform people what kind of medical treatment you want or don't want. If you don't articulate your wishes and something unanticipated occurs, you burden your family because now they've got to figure out what you want. It's tough on families and we deal with it in the emergency room all the time."

Moccia has dealt with families who don't know their loved one's end-of-life medical plan. Some family members may not want any extraordinary mea-



St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia converts tennis ball cans into storage receptacles for important health papers, including a living will or advance health directive.

sures taken to keep their loved one alive; others may want resuscitation, a ventilator, whatever it takes to extend life. Without a plan, ER staff "must err on the side of doing everything."

Moccia wants to make it easier for families to talk about advance health care decision-making by showing them a series of one-act vignettes, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, in the South Auditorium at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile, at Levan, in Livonia. Nurses, social workers and members of the public

will act out the scenes that convey the importance end-of-life planning. The program is presented by St. Mary's Senior ER, the Great Lakes Chapter of Gerontological Advanced Practice, Palliative Care, Spiritual Care and STARForUM.

The event recognizes National Health Care Decisions Day, April 16, a national initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes on end-of-life health care.

### Scenes spark talk

"This came about because of what we were constantly seeing in the emergency center," Moccia said. "We decided to do one-act vignettes because they are instrumental in getting people to talk. You're watching a show. It's a non-threatening environment. We're really trying to cue people on the importance of having that talk and having documents readily available."

Moccia said individuals who have prepared an end-of-life medical plan, called an advance directive, living will or five wishes, need to tell family members about their intentions and make sure the information is accessible to EMS.

"When EMS walks through your door, you may not be able to speak and articulate what you want. We tell people to keep a medication list handy, an advance directive handy. Put it in the kitchen. Most of us take our medication in the kitchen, so EMS always goes into the kitchen."

For the past two years, St. Mary Mercy has made document storage and visibility easy with its "Plan in a Can" program. Moccia, an avid tennis fan, suggested using an empty, plastic tennis ball container for keeping important health documents. The idea was a "big hit." The hospital created a new label for the containers, which it gives out at various events.

Moccia also encourages individuals with medical illnesses and allergies to check the medical alert box on the back of their driver's licenses. It cues EMS workers to check for medical alert information in the patient's purse or wallet, she said.

To register for the program on advanced medical planning, visit [stmary-mercy.org](http://stmary-mercy.org) and click on classes and events, or call 734-655-8950.

## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### Arthritic hips

Homer Linard III, an orthopedic surgeon, will give a free educational seminar on hip pain, total hip replacement and new treatment options, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Botsford Hospital Zieger Administration & Education Building Colen Auditorium, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. To register, call 877-477-3621, option #1.

### Breathers Club

Oakwood Healthcare will sponsor a free meeting for anyone touched by COPD, 6-7:30 p.m. April 7 in the Oakwood Cardiac Rehab Center, 22060 Beech, Dearborn. Group members share ideas and learn coping techniques from health professionals. For more information, contact Darlene Lingenfelter, 313-562-4132.

### Dementia

» Tailor your communication style to build trust and develop rapport with individuals who have dementia, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, in the Clinical Services Building at Botsford Commons Senior Community, 21440 Archwood Circle, Farmington Hills. An Alzheimer's support group meeting follows in the Botsford Commons chapel. To register, call Diane Zide at 248-426-6902.

» Oakwood Healthcare will sponsor a free program about managing symptoms, treatment and physical therapy of dementia from 6-8 p.m. April 15 at Oakwood Hospital - Wayne, 33155 Annapolis St., Wayne. Two Oakwood physicians will lead the free program. Valet parking will be available at no charge at the West Entrance and a complimentary light dinner will be

served. Early registration is recommended. Call 800-543-9355 or visit [Oakwood.org](http://Oakwood.org).

### Health discussion

Talk with Lila Lazarus, health reporter, Rob Casalou, St. Joseph Mercy Health System president and CEO, hospital officials and local leaders about issues that are important to you at an "open-ended" lunch discussion, noon April 7 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Five Mile and Levan, in Livonia. Other "Join Me" Lunch & Learn sessions will be held April 20 at St. Joseph Mercy Livingston, 620 Byron, Howell; April 24 at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor, 5301 McAuley, Ypsilanti; and April 27 at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, 4465 Woodward, Pontiac.

### Hearing loss

The Hearing Loss Association of America will focus on the topic, "What is aural reha-

bilitation and how will it help with my hearing loss?" 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. For more information, contact Tony at 734-664-3297, [aferrack@comcast.net](mailto:aferrack@comcast.net).

### Insurance enrollment

Oakwood Healthcare sponsors this free health insurance enrollment open house, noon to 5 p.m. April 11 in the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne. Eligible consumers who paid the fee for not having health coverage last year have until April 30 to enroll in coverage for this year. Visit [oakwood.org/health-insurance-enrollment](http://oakwood.org/health-insurance-enrollment) for more information.

### Medical Bills

Botsford Hospital's free seminar, "Understand Your Medical Bills: Know the Terminology to Read Your State-

ments," runs 9-11 a.m. April 18 in classroom A/B in the Zieger Building at the hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Get answers to common questions about hospital bills, receive take-home guides and meet one-on-one with a member of Botsford's billing team to review your medical bills. For more information, call Alonda Malvo-Beard at 248-888-6448.

### Walk with a Doc

Annette Carron, D.O., will lead a walk and will talk about Delirium: Conquering Confusion, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the nature center in Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Register at 877-477-3621, option 1.

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